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Scene magazine



**Welcome present:
1st ID will return to
improved chow halls**

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**Ramstein wrestlers
win 4 titles at DODDS
championships**

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Westbader's Tony Gagnon, 145-pound champion

Volume 63, No. 307 © SS 2005 G

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2005

\$1.00

AAFES stocks up for return of 1st ID

With thousands due home soon, stores load up on merchandise

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Vets reunite to remember Iwo Jima

Marines who fought in bloody
WWII battle attend ceremony
to commemorate its
60th anniversary

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JOE GROMELSKI/Stars and Stripes

Iwo Jima veteran Herbert Newman
sings the national anthem Friday
at a program marking the
60th anniversary of the
Battle of Iwo Jima.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION BY SIEGFRIED BRUNER/Stars and Stripes

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News Tracker ... What's new with old news

States

Vt. town secession vote: Only a year after generating a flurry of publicity for voting to secede and join New Hampshire, residents of Killington, Vt., are being asked to decide on Town Meeting day whether to rethink the idea.

"It's been a year, so it seemed like a good time to update people about where we stand and to bring the issue up again in a substantive way," Town Manager David Lewis said. "It seemed appropriate to tie it in with a vote at Town Meeting to give the voters the ability to say, 'We don't want to go any further.'"

Blake murder trial: The defense in Robert Blake's murder trial tried to undermine the testimony of two key prosecution witnesses — both former drug users — by calling on an expert who said chronic drug use can cause hallucinations and paranoid delusions.

Regular use of cocaine and methamphetamine also can cause irreversible brain damage, said Ronald Keith Siegel, a psychopharmacologist on the faculty of the University of California, Los Angeles, medical school.

Judge's libel case: A judge who said he was misquoted in a series of articles as telling lawyers that a 14-year-old rape victim should "get over it" has won a \$2.1 million libel case against the Boston Herald.

Jurors deliberated for more than 20 hours over five days before finding Friday that the newspaper and reporter David Wedge, labeled Judge Ernest B. Murphy. Another reporter, Jules Crittenden, was cleared.

Serial rape suspect: A man believed to be the convicted rapist who slipped away from officers in November after confessing to another assault was captured Friday after attacking a woman and stealing her car, police said.

The man was taken into custody in Glenwood Springs, about 150 miles west of Denver, according to Denver Police Chief Gerry Whitman. He was being held on \$25 million bail early Saturday.

Brent J. Brents, 35, is suspected in the sexual assaults on five women and girls earlier this month in Denver — nearly three months after he was questioned by police in Aurora about claims that he inappropriately touched a former girlfriend's 8-year-old son.

University admissions law: The University of Houston has decided to automatically admit applicants in the top 20 percent of their graduating class, sidestepping the controversial top 10 percent admissions policy.

University officials said the revised policy will be implemented in the fall 2006 semester regardless of what happens with ongoing legislative attempts to change the law.

Michael Jackson trial: Los Angeles prosecutors in the child molestation trial of Michael Jackson want court permission to subpoena the star's financial records and present expert testimony about his wealth, according to documents released Friday.

Defense lawyers argued the materials are not relevant and violate Jackson's privacy. In their motion, prosecutors said they



Mideast unrest: In May, Israeli soldiers search the desert sands for body parts of troops killed by Palestinian militants in the Philadelphia corridor, an Israeli-controlled patrol road between Rafah and the Egyptian border. Israeli Vice Premier Shimon Peres said Friday that Israel has agreed in principle to evacuate the road on the Gaza-Egypt border that was one of the deadliest spots during the four-year Palestinian uprising.

plan to show Jackson's actions toward his accuser and the boy's family were motivated by a desire to minimize the effects of a documentary titled "Living With Michael Jackson" and "to preserve both his fortune and his reputation."

Public pool rulings: A Muslim woman who was barred from accompanying her children to a public swimming pool because she was fully clothed settled a lawsuit Friday against the city of Omaha.

The city said it amended its swimming pool dress code to accommodate religious or medical needs. Other details of the settlement with Lubna Hussein were not made public.

"We're happy to feel like part of the community again," Hussein said.

Human smuggling: The New York man accused of driving and abandoning a hot, airless tractor-trailer in the nation's deadliest human smuggling attempt will not be allowed to waive his right to a jury trial, a judge decided Friday.

If Tyrone Williams' request had been approved, U.S. District Judge Vanessa Gilmore would have decided if he was guilty or not guilty of any of 58 counts of harboring and transporting illegal immigrants he faces for the May 2003 smuggling attempt. Nineteen immigrants died.

Williams faces the death penalty in the case, scheduled to go to trial next week.

Military

Accused drill instructor: A drill instructor who struck a Marine recruit who later died during training has been suspended pending an investigation into the death, military officials said Friday.

Jason Tharp of Sutton, W.Va., drowned Feb. 8 while participating in a water-survival training course at Parris Island.

The day before his death, a Columbia television station recorded a confrontation between Tharp and the drill instructor, who

was seen in the video grabbing Tharp by the shirt and striking him in the chest.

Proposed N.C. landing field: A federal judge Friday blocked the Navy from classifying documents from the U.S. prison camp on a proposed landing field in eastern North Carolina until it completes environmental impact studies for the site.

U.S. District Court Judge Terrence Boyle agreed with environmentalists and local officials that work should be halted while the Navy takes another look at how the field would affect a nearby wildlife refuge that is the winter home to tens of thousands of swans, geese and other birds.

The Navy wants to build the landing field on 30,000 acres to give new F/A-18 Super Hornet jets a place to practice aircraft carrier takeoffs and landings.

Gitmo translator sentenced: An American translator who admitted taking classified documents from the U.S. prison camp at Guantanamo Bay, Cuba, was sentenced Friday to 20 months in prison.

With time already served, Ahmed Fahmy Mehalla could be released in three weeks.

Mehalla, 32, an Egyptian-born U.S. citizen and civilian Arabic translator at Guantanamo, told the judge he exercised "very poor judgment" when he took computer discs out of the country. But he said he never intended to use the files for any illicit purpose.

World

East Timor abuses: Secretary-General Kofi Annan has appointed a commission of experts to review the prosecution of human rights violations during a wave of violence after East Timor voted for independence from Indonesia in 1999.

The U.N. Security Council expressed concern in November at Indonesia's failure to punish those responsible for the violence that killed 1,500 people and left much of East Timor in ruins.

Stories and photo from The Associated Press

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AAFES stores stock up for returning troops

By RICK EMERT
Stars and Stripes

After a year of decreased sales at many of its stores in 1st Infantry Division communities, the Army and Air Force Exchange Service is oiling up its cash registers.

In anticipation of the return this month and next of thousands of soldiers with money to burn, the Würzburg Consolidated Exchange has ordered more than \$6.5 million worth of additional items, according to Robert Koch, retail business manager for the consolidated exchange.

About \$4 million of that merchandise is electronics — popular items for returning troops, he said.

Additional stock is also on the shelves at the Vileseck Post Exchange in preparation for the return of the 3rd Brigade Combat Team there, said Matt Mennona, general manager for the Grafenwöhr Consolidated Exchange.

"We're ramping up for the return," said Mennona, whose territory covers Grafenwöhr, Hohenfels and Vileseck.

AAFES representatives met in October to discuss what should be happening at AAFES stores in preparation for the return.

"We sat down and looked at what we

needed to do to prepare," said Koch, whose consolidated exchange covers Bamberg, Giebelstadt, Kitzingen, Schweinfurt and Würzburg. "We started ordering merchandise in December to hit the stores in early February."

A sales bonanza

The Würzburg Consolidated Exchange has ordered \$6.5 million worth of merchandise to prepare for the 1st Infantry Division's return from Iraq. Sales are already on the rise. Here are the average two-week sales figures, and sales since Feb. 1 for selected items:

- **Plasma TVs:** average, 6 units sold; Feb. 1-15, 107 units sold
- **Large-screen projection TVs:** average, 18 units; Feb. 1-15, 80
- **Computers:** average, 48; Feb. 1-15, 149
- **Home theater systems:** average, 37; Feb. 1-15, 153

Source: Würzburg Consolidated Exchange

bers," Koch said.

"When their husbands or wives come home, they are going to want to go on black leave with them, rightfully so. We will do all we can to allow them to spend time with their returning soldiers."

One solution involved bringing in employees from other areas to help out. About 10 have already arrived and are spread throughout 1st ID communities. Up to 15 more are expected this week.

"They are here on temporary duty, and

"We talked to our counterparts in the 1st Armored Division to see what soldiers in those communities wanted when they returned. We all have a lot of experience in knowing what soldiers are looking for."

With shelves stocked, AAFES has addressed the challenge of having a staff large enough to handle the rush of returning soldiers.

"Some of the challenges will be to keep the floor stocked, but another will be that most of our employees are family mem-



Courtesy of AAFES

A soldier walks away with the 65-inch wide-screen TV he purchased at the Schweinfurt Power Zone on Friday. Army and Air Force Exchange Service-Europe has stocked up on popular items to gear up for the 1st Infantry Division's return from Iraq.

we put them where they are needed, based on their expertise," Koch said.

Many of the AAFES stores were renovated while the soldiers deployed, and some communities have new restaurants, which have ordered extra food from the warehouse near Ramstein.

"In the entire community, there's a certain amount of electricity when you see all the signs and posters welcoming our soldiers home," he said.

"We all look forward to their return, and [AAFES] will bend over backward to take care of their needs."

E-mail Rick Emert at: emert@mail.strips.esd.mil

A joyful homecoming



KRISTEN CHANDLER TOTT/Courtesy of the U.S. Army

Capt. Barrett Bernard, from the 2nd Brigade Combat Team, plays with his 2-year-old daughter, Taylor, after returning from Iraq at a welcome-home ceremony in Schweinfurt, Germany, on Friday. Bernard was among the 1st ID soldiers returning from a year in Iraq.

Chow-hall face lifts met with praise

By STEVE LIEWER
Stars and Stripes

WÜRZBURG, Germany — Before the 1st Infantry Division began its trip home from Iraq, Spc. Sharon Williams avoided eating in military chow halls like the one at its Würzburg headquarters. Bland, greasy food. Few choices. Grim, dark, institutional eating rooms.

That's all changed, now that the Army has opened its wallet to spiff up the Leighton Barracks dining hall.

"Before, I wouldn't eat the food," Williams, 27, of the Würzburg-based 106th Finance Battalion, said over a chow-hall lunch last week. "This is the first time I've been here. It's fresher. The soda tastes like soda, not water."

Had her friends not nagged her to come, she added, "I never would have known."

Returning troops will see something different at every Big Red One chow hall. Base officials took advantage of the deployment and crammed all their future planned renovations into a single year.

"We accelerated [the building program] to get it done before the division came back," said Lt. Col. Jeffrey Harrison, director of public works for the Würzburg-based 98th Area Support Group, which includes all 1st ID bases except Vileseck.

The upgrades include \$200,000 to \$250,000 projects such as painting, repairs and floor or roof improvements at Kitzingen and Bamberg, as well as

full-scale, million-dollar-plus remodeling jobs at posts in Schweinfurt, Katterbach and Würzburg.

The Leighton Barracks face lift is typical. Staff Sgt. Bessie Pulley, the dining-hall manager, said it included a new central heating and air conditioning system that, it is hoped, will stop soldiers dining there from freezing in the winter and broiling in the summer.

Also new are customer-friendly serving areas, a sunroom and latrines accessible from indoors, plus brighter walls decorated with pictures.

"We got away from the military look and tried to make it more homey for the soldiers," Pulley said.

The changes drew praise from newly returned soldiers — even those accustomed to the lavish spreads at the KBR-contract chow halls in Iraq. And although Pulley says the menu choices haven't changed since before the deployment, the improved presentation has made many soldiers feel like the food has improved.

The renovations have been really nice," said Spc. Jared Hafen, 28, of the 101st Military Intelligence Battalion. "The food's a lot better. The sandwich bar rocks."

"It's more relaxing, more open — like a restaurant," said Cpl. Justina Spears, 24, of the 106th Finance Battalion, who just returned from Forward Operating Base Dangler, Tikrit.

"Plus, we're not in a tent, and we're not being mortared."

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STEVE LIEWER/Stars and Stripes

Spc. Sharon Williams, left, and Cpl. Justina Spears, both of the 106th Finance Battalion, share lunch in the new sunroom at the Leighton Barracks dining facility in Würzburg, Germany, on Wednesday.

the 1st ID headquarters base in Tikrit.

60th Anniversary of Iwo Jima ~ The Reunion of Honor

The Bloodiest Battle

Years after war, Iwo Jima reunion stirs powerful memories

BY JON R. ANDERSON

Stripes and Stripes

ANANTICO, Va. Arthur Gavlock looked on in horror as the amphibious assault craft in front of him moved out of its berth inside the tossing Navy warship and sunk straight to the bottom of the Pacific.

Now it was his turn. Turning to grab his rifle, Gavlock couldn't believe it. Someone had swiped it.

And so it was, 60 years ago this week, that a 19-year-old Marine private found himself wading ashore onto a strange island called Iwo Jima without a gun in what would become the bloodiest battle in Marine Corps history.

Gavlock, now 79, was among about 100 veterans of the campaign gathered at Marine Corps headquarters in Quantico, Va., on Friday morning. It was among the first events to kick off the 60th anniversary commemorations of the attack on Iwo Jima.

A wreath-laying ceremony is slated at the Iwo Jima Memorial in Washington on Saturday, under the bronze feet of the five Marines and one corpsman sailor, immortalized by Associated Press photographer Joe Rosenthal's image of the raising of the Stars and Stripes atop Mount Suribachi.

Across the globe, Marine commandant Gen. Michael Hagee is to oversee ceremonies on the black, volcanic island itself.

A linchpin in the Allied campaign to Japan, Iwo Jima served as an early warning station against American bombers. Taking the island would add three critical airfields for fighter escorts, placing them within easy striking distance of the Japanese homeland.

At Quantico, with most of the veterans of that grueling battle now well into their 70s and 80s, many shook from age instead of the fear they had to master as they stepped off their assault craft and into the chaos and carnage.

For Gavlock, now hard of hearing and wearing a red Marine Corps jacket and baseball cap emblazoned with the words "I survived Iwo Jima," it was the gruesome images of those first few hours on the island that remain his most vivid memories.



Krukak



JOE GROMELSKO/Stars and Stripes

With the famous photograph of the raising of the flag on Mount Suribachi projected on a screen in the background, modern-day Marines re-enact the event during Friday's 60th anniversary ceremony at Quantico, Va.

Dead everywhere

"Coming on the beach, the dead were everywhere, the young faces of those beautiful kids," said Gavlock, who managed to grab a rifle from among the bodies as he came ashore. "As a kid I was afraid of dead people, but it didn't take long to get over that."

Indeed, 22,000 deeply entrenched Japanese defenders would make taking the island one of the costliest battles of the war. It became the first — and still the

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only — battle in history to see more Marines wounded than enemy. One out of every four Medals of Honor earned by Marines during the war were given to veterans of Iwo Jima.

Through the 36-day assault, which began Feb. 19, 1945, some

6,800 Marines and corpsmen would die, with another 19,000 wounded.

"Think about that," retired Gen. Chuck Krulak, the Corps' 31st commandant, told those gathered in Quantico. "A Marine fell to fire every two minutes of every hour of every day for 36 days."

"Truly, you represent the greatest generation," Krulak told the veterans, "and the greatest of our Marine Corps."

Off the beach

An artilleryman with the 13th Marines, Gavlock said he feels lucky to have come out Iwo Jima without a scratch. "I guess I was my lucky number," he said.

Greg Emery wasn't so fortunate. But he didn't mind.

A Navy corpsman, Emery was wounded on day 12 of the invasion.

Petty Officer 2nd Class Neeth Williams, a current corpsman, stood enraptured as Emery told how he snuck out of the field hospital he was taken to after getting hit and re-joined his unit.

Williams eyes grew wide as Emery pointed to a picture of a young medic tending the wounded — part of a display of Iwo Jima battle photos and artifacts.

"That's me," he said, explaining that he stayed with his unit for 37 days on the island before leaving once Iwo Jima was captured.

"Man, it's amazing to meet someone like that," said Williams, a veteran of the 2003 invasion of Iraq. "The things he's seen and done, he really had me floored hearing those stories."

Herb Newman was just glad to make it out alive. Already a veteran of the Marshall Island and Saipan campaigns where he'd already earned his first Purple Heart, Newman had few illusions about what he'd face on Iwo Jima.

Newman spent the first three days of the invasion trying to take the high ground of an area of the island called the Sun Quarry. "Once I got up over the top of the ridge, I got shot in the leg," he said.

It took hours for eight musicians from the 24th Marine Band — tasked with tending to the wounded — to carry Newman down to the beachhead on a stretcher.

"Of course, that was the most dangerous place on the island," he says, recalling the gut wrenching trip out to a hospital ship as the Japanese peppered his craft with gunfire. "I remember thinking, 'Here I am, about to get my second Purple Heart, and I'm not even going to make it off the beach.'"

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"Truly, you represent the greatest generation and the greatest of our Marine Corps."

Gen. Chuck Krulak (Ret.)

U.S. Marine Corps' 31st commandant

Hospital avoids backups

Heidelberg cuts appointments to train on new software

BY BEN MURRAY

Stars and Stripes

The backup of appointments expected at the U.S. Army hospital in Heidelberg, Germany, where doctors have reduced patient loads to learn how to use a new medical record tracking system, has not materialized as expected, hospital officials said last week.

A combination of steady call volume and patients' willingness to put off routine appointments over the past two weeks have kept the hospital's need to refer people to German medical centers at a minimum, said Maj. Dennis Walker, chief of Heidelberg's clinical operations division.

"We've seen very little impact on the number of people we've had to send down into the local economy," Walker said.

Heidelberg is the first hospital in Europe to implement the Department of Defense's new Composite Health Care System II, an electronic medical record database that will eventually replace military patients' paper-based files. When fully applied, examination rooms throughout the military will be outfitted with a desk-

top computer where doctors can access a patient's complete medical file online from a central database in Alabama.

But medical staff members have to trade off patient visits for classroom time, and must lengthen individual appointments while learning to use the system, leading to potential backups, CHCS officials warned in January.

Walker said Wednesday, however, that Heidelberg has received almost no complaints of decreased access to doctors, and numbers of referrals to German facilities have been low.

"There were days we would send out four to five [patients], and there were days we didn't send out any," he said.

Normally, the hospital treats about 200 patients a day and does not have to refer any patients to German facilities, he said.

Maj. David Blair, a physician and CHCS II integration expert flown in this week from the States to help train the Heidelberg doctors, said many were dubious when they first saw the system, because it does not contain much patient background yet, providing only basic information from recent treatments.

But as a doctor — not a software trainer — who has worked with the system for two years, Blair said he was able to show Heidelberg medical staff members practical ways to use CHCS II, and showed them what a complete medical record will eventually look like.

Generally when doctors see a full record on CHCS II, "their view of the system has been improved," he said.

The next hospital to implement CHCS II will be the Landstuhl Regional Medical Center, where officials are already taking lessons from the Heidelberg training to improve the integration process, said Tina Coffman, CHCS II program manager for central Europe.

Officials at the hospital, where more than 1,000 new computers will be installed for CHCS II, will lengthen some of the early training sessions and prepare more "champions" — medical staffers who learn the system early and help teach it to their colleagues — to help get the hospital online sooner, Coffman said.

E-mail Ben Murray at: murrayb@mail.estripes.osd.mil

Winning a ride



JASON CHUDY/Stars and Stripes

Lt. Protegenie Reed, a nurse at Naval Hospital Naples, Italy, sits in the front seat of her new 2005 Volvo S60 2.5T Friday as her husband, Marceau Christphote, holds their two daughters, Isabella, 3, and Michaela, 8 months, in front. Reed won the car after being selected from thousands of other entries during a Christmas raffle at 45 European commissaries. Forty-four other winners from the other European commissaries each received \$50 DECA gift certificates.

AFN disruptions

American Forces Network viewers in Europe may notice small disruptions in reception starting Monday as crews at AFN's central broadcasting center upgrade equipment, AFN announced last week.

Though the company performing the work, Scientific Atlanta,

does not expect interruptions, "the possibility of momentary signal loss or freeze-framing does exist," according to an AFN press release.

A spokeswoman for AFN Europe said Friday that disruptions, if they do happen, are likely to take place in the latter half of the upgrades, which run through March 2.

From staff reports

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Based on the DC-Vertigo comic book "Hellblazer", Renegade occultist John Constantine has literally been to hell and back. He teams up with skeptical policewoman Angela Dodson to solve the mysterious suicide of her twin sister. Their investigation takes them through the world of demons and angels that exist just beneath the landscape of contemporary Los Angeles.



Showtimes are subject to change. Please check your local theater or aafes.com to verify show dates.

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CONSTANTINE

Show dates are approximate. Check your local theater or aafes.com for exact show dates and times.

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Bald	4-10 Mar
Bamberg	11-17 Mar
Barmbeider	25-31 Mar
Birgum	8-14 Apr
Camp Doha	25-31 Mar
Darmstadt	1-7 Apr
Derheim	18-24 Mar
Friedberg	15-21 Apr
Giebelstadt	1-7 Apr
Grafenwoehr	11-17 Mar
Hansa	4-10 Mar
Heidelberg	11-17 Mar
Hohenfels	18-24 Mar
Holheim	1-7 Apr
Kallertbach	25-31 Mar
Kitzingen	25-31 Mar
Kosovo	15-21 Apr
Lakenburg	11-17 Mar
Livorno	22-28 Apr
Mannheim	4-10 Mar
Mildenhall	4-10 Mar
Ramslein Herolds	18-24 Mar
Ramslein Nightingale	11-17 Mar
Rhein Main	25-31 Mar
Schweinfurt	18-24 Mar
Speyerhof	1-7 Apr
Tafel	29 Apr-5 May
Vaihingen	18-24 Mar
Vicenza	15-21 Apr
Vittek	4-10 Mar
Vogelweh	4-10 Mar
Wiesbaden	11-17 Mar
Wuerzburg	4-10 Mar



USS Carter commissioned

Biggest Seawolf said to signal the end of an era

BY CARA RUBINSKY
The Associated Press

GROTON, Conn. — The USS Jimmy Carter entered the Navy's fleet Saturday as the most heavily armed submarine ever built, and as the last of the Seawolf class of attack subs that the Pentagon ordered during the Cold War's final years.

The \$3.2 billion Jimmy Carter was commissioned Saturday, the first named after a living ex-president. Carter, himself a submariner during his time in the Navy, was on hand for the ceremony signaling the end of an era in submarine warfare.

"The most deeply appreciated and emotional honor I've ever had is to have this great ship bear my name," Carter said in remarks prepared for the ceremony at the Naval Submarine Base New London.

Carter was joined by his wife, Rosalynn, former Vice President Walter Mondale and his wife, Joan, and Stansfield Turner,



The USS Jimmy Carter was commissioned Saturday at the U.S. Navy base in Groton, Conn.

CIA director in the Carter administration.

The 453-foot, 12,000-ton submarine has a 50-torpedo payload and eight torpedo tubes. It can reach speeds of more than 45 knots and carry Tomahawk cruise missiles and anti-submarine torpedoes, and it is engineered to be quieter than the

other two Seawolves, making it better for surveillance.

John Pike, a military analyst with globalsecurity.org, said the ceremony closes the book on the big-submarine era.

"It was part of our strategy on how we were going to win World War III. It was a significant component in our response to the evil empire," he said.

In eastern Connecticut, a region steeped in submarine history and the home to the Electric Boat shipyard, which built and launched the Seawolves, some fear the Pentagon will close the New London base as it looks to shrink the submarine fleet and buy smaller, cheaper subs.

"It's hard to find a civilian that doesn't have some connection to the sub force," said Bud Fay, who owns a diner, car wash and laundry not far from the base gates in Groton.

To ensure that the last Seawolf was not obsolete before it hit the water, the Pentagon delayed production to install a 100-foot hull extension that military analysts say equips the Jimmy Carter to replace the USS Parche, one of the fleet's premier spy subs.

The Parche was decommissioned in October. The Jimmy Carter will be based at Kitsap, Wash., the Parche's former home.

Let it snow!



PHOTOS BY KEVIN DOUGHERTY/Stars and Stripes

Top: Many U.S. servicemen and their families headed outside to play on Saturday after up to four inches of snow fell over a large swath of Germany. Among them were Army Sgt. Joseph Anderson and his 3-year-old daughter, Cheyanne, who enjoyed snuggling some snow on her father outside their military housing in Griesheim, Germany. The snowfall was the heaviest of the winter season so far for the southwest region of Germany — from Ramstein and Sembach air bases north to Frankfurt and Giebelstadt. More snow is predicted for Sunday and the next few days. Above: With her father and mother, Beth, not shown, Cheyanne plays with a sled.

New submarine can tap underwater cables

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The USS Jimmy Carter, which joined the nation's submarine fleet on Saturday, will have some special capabilities, intelligence experts say: It will be able to tap undersea cables and eavesdrop on the communications passing through them.

"The Navy does not acknowledge that the \$3.2 billion submarine, the third and last of the Seawolf class of attack subs, has this capability."

"There are limits to what I can say on the sub's capabilities, but let's just say the Jimmy Carter is uniquely capable to perform missions vitally important to the war on terror," said Rep. Rob Simmons, R-Conn., a former CIA officer whose district includes Groton, where the sub was built.

But intelligence community watchdogs have little doubt. The previous submarine that performed the mission, the USS Parche, was retired last fall. That would only happen if a new one was on the way.

Like the Parche, the Carter was extensively modified from its basic design, given a \$923 million

hull extension that allows it to house technicians and gear to perform the cable-tapping and other secret missions, experts say. The Carter's hull, at 453 feet, is 100 feet longer than the other two subs in the Seawolf class.

"The submarine is basically going to have as its major function intelligence gathering," said James Bamford, author of two books on the National Security Agency.

Navy public information touts some of the Carter's special abilities: In the extended hull section, the boat can provide berths for up to 50 special operations troops, like Navy SEALs. It has an "ocean interface" that serves as a sort of hangar bay for smaller vehicles and drones to launch and return. It has the usual complement of torpedo tubes and Tomahawk cruise missiles, and it will also serve as a platform for researching new technologies useful on submarines.

The Carter, like other submarines, will also have the ability to eavesdrop on communications passed through the airwaves, experts say. But its ability to tap undersea fiber-optic cables may be unique in the fleet.

Soldier: Army treated her 'like a criminal' after assault claim

The Associated Press

MAYS LANDING, N.J. — A former National Guard lieutenant said in a TV interview that the Army treated her "like a criminal" after she accused a fellow soldier of rape.

Jennifer Dyer, 26, said in the interview on "60 Minutes" that Army investigators sequestered her in a hotel after the incident and threatened her with arrest when she didn't return to the base following a two-week convalescent leave.

The Army "has done nothing but lie to me and treat me like a criminal," said Dyer, who is from Mays Landing and has agreed to be interviewed by nbc.com. CBS released a partial transcript of the taped interview on Thursday.

Her alleged attacker, Michael Hall, 35, also a National Guard lieutenant, is scheduled to go on trial on rape charges next month in a military court in Alabama. He has said the sex was consensual.

Dyer's lawyer, Frederick Klepp, said the alleged attack occurred after she went to an officer's club last August while training at Camp Shelby, near Hattiesburg, Miss.

Hall's lawyer, Victor Kelley, said that Dyer made up the rape allegation to get out of the Army.

She has since requested and received an honorable discharge.

Last month, a military hearing officer recommended that the rape charge be dropped.

Campbell entrance to reopen

A renovated entrance at Campbell Barracks in Heidelberg, Germany, will open Tuesday, according to a news release. Gate 3, located along Rheinstrasse, will be open to traffic at 6 a.m. The gate has been under construction since last fall.

Traffic leaving Campbell Barracks must exit at either Gate 1, along Rönnerstrasse, 24 hours a day, or Gate 4, between 4 and 6 p.m. Monday through Friday.

All Installation Management Agency-Europe personnel, residents of Mark Twain Village North, and people going to either the MTV schools or the child development center, must enter through the MTV guard post located along Pörschstrasse. This is the only vehicle access to MTV North. MTV North traffic will continue to exit the same way until the barriers along Rheinstrasse are removed. Traffic leaving the MTV North area through Rheinstrasse, as it was before construction began, the release said.

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At least 50 dead in Iraq bombings

GI among those killed in suicide attacks on Shiites' holiest day

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Insurgents and suicide bombers struck out in Baghdad and other parts of Iraq on Saturday, leaving at least 50 people dead as Shiites commemorated the death 14 centuries ago of the founder of their Muslim sect.

For the second year, the attacks shattered the commemoration of Ashoura, the holiest day of the Shiite religious calendar. The dead this year included a U.S. soldier, killed in Baghdad when American troops responded to calls for assistance from Iraqi forces unable to cope with a slew of attacks.

The country's interim government and Shiite political parties said they would not allow the country to slip into civil war just days before the religious group's political parties take control of Iraq.

The attacks made Saturday the deadliest day since last month's elections for a new national assembly. The Shiite ticket, the United Iraqi Alliance, won 48 percent of the vote in Iraq's first democratic balloting.

A series of similar attacks, some carried out by suicide bombers targeting Shiite mosques, killed 36 people on Friday.

"The bombings on Shiite mosques and shrines on Ashoura by terrorists that call themselves Muslims are in fact actions by terrorists only attempting to spill even more Muslim blood by encouraging sectarian violence," Adnan al-Rubaie, the national security adviser for the interim government, told The Associated Press.

He said the suicide bombings were attempts "to create a religious war within Iraq. Iraqis will not allow this to happen, Iraqis will stand united as Iraqis foremost, and Iraq will not fall into sectarian war."

Insurgents carried out a steady stream of attacks using suicide bombers, mortars and gunmen across the country, said Capt. Sabah Yassin, a defense ministry official.



A U.S. soldier covers the perimeter while others examine the body of one of two Iraqi police officers killed on a busy intersection Saturday in Mosul. Iraq had been shot in the head and left on the side of the road. Across Iraq, a string of suicide bombings killed at least 50.

Among the deadliest attacks came when a suicide bomber blew up his car at an Iraqi army checkpoint in Latifiya, 20 miles south of the capital, killing nine Iraqi soldiers, he said.

At least eight suicide bombers staged attacks in and around Baghdad alone on Saturday, targeting religious gatherings and Iraqi checkpoints. An Associated Press count of the dead from those attacks alone totaled 24, but many more explosions were audible in the capital throughout the day.

It was unclear which of the attacks in Baghdad claimed the life of the American soldier, whose identity was withheld by the military pending notification of his next of kin. Another soldier was wounded in the attack, which killed an Iraqi, the military said.

Saturday's bombings came despite stepped-up security around the country. Authorities had hoped to prevent a repeat of last year's attacks during Ashoura in which insurgents killed at least 181 people in twin blasts in Karbala and Baghdad.

Security was so tight in Karbala that no attacks were carried out in that city, 50 miles south of Baghdad.

Hundreds of thousands people had gathered there to mark Ashoura, which commemorates the death of the Imam Hussein, a grandson of the prophet Muhammad. Hussein was killed in a power struggle in the seventh century and is buried in a gold-domed shrine in Karbala.

The attacks also came as a five-member U.S. Congressional delegation that includes Senator Hillary Clinton, a Democrat from New York, met with Iraqi government officials in Baghdad's Green Zone.

"The fact that you have these suicide bombers now, wreaking such hatred and violence while people pray, is to me, an indication of their failure," Clinton told reporters. Authorities did make some progress against the insurgency, arresting two of its leaders, including a top aide to Iraqi al-Qaida leader Abu Musab al-Zarqawi.

U.S. deaths in Iraq

The Associated Press

As of Friday, at least 1,475 members of the U.S. military have died since the beginning of the Iraq war in March 2003, according to an Associated Press count. At least 1,116 died as a result of hostile action, according to the Defense Department.

The figures include four military civilians.

The AP count is 13 higher than the Defense Department's tally, last updated at 10 a.m. EST Friday.

The British military has reported 86 deaths; Italy, 20; Ukraine, 18; Poland, 16; Spain, 11; Bulgaria, seven; Slovakia, three; Estonia, Thailand and the Netherlands, two each; and Denmark, El Salvador, Hungary, Latvia and Kazakhstan one death each.

The latest deaths reported by the military:

■ A soldier was killed Friday when a bomb detonated near him north of Diwaniyah, Iraq.

■ A soldier was killed Friday when an explosive detonated by his vehicle near Balad, Iraq.

■ A soldier was killed Thursday by an explosive while on patrol in Tal Afar, Iraq.

■ A U.S. soldier was killed Thursday by small-arms fire in Mosul.

The latest identifications reported by the military:

■ Army Sgt. Frank B. Hernandez, 21, Phoenix, died Tuesday in Tal Afar, Iraq.

■ An Army soldier was killed near his vehicle, assigned to 2nd Squadron, 14th Cavalry Regiment, 1st Brigade, 25th Infantry Division, Stryker Brigade Combat Team, 2nd Lewis and Clark, Wash.

■ Army Sgt. Christopher M. Pusateri, 21, Corning, N.Y., died Wednesday in Mosul, Iraq, from small arms fire; assigned to 2nd Battalion, 325th Airborne Infantry Regiment, 82nd Airborne Division, Fort Bragg, N.C.

■ Army Sgt. Justin B. Carter, 21, Mansfield, Mo.; died Wednesday in Forward Operating Base McKenzie, Iraq, from non-combat injuries; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 15th Infantry Regiment, 3rd Brigade, 3rd Infantry Division (Mechanized), Fort Benning, Ga.

■ Army Sgt. Katrina L. Bell-Johnson, 32, Orangeburg, S.C., died Wednesday in Baquba, Iraq, from a vehicle accident; assigned to the 418th Transportation Company, 180th Transportation Battalion, Fort Hood, Texas.

■ Army Staff Sgt. Jason R. Hendrix, 28, Claremore, Okla.; died Wednesday in Ramadi, Iraq, while conducting combat operations; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, 2nd Infantry Division, Camp Hovey, South Korea.

■ Army Pfc. Michael A. Arcidiacono, 20, Elmendorf, N.Y.; died Tuesday in Ramadi, Iraq, from small arms fire; assigned to the 1st Battalion, 503rd Infantry Regiment, Camp Casey, South Korea.

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Chalabi confident he'll be new prime minister

BY MAGGIE MICHAEL

The Associated Press

BAGHDAD — Ahmad Chalabi, the Washington insider who later fell out of favor with the United States, expressed confidence Friday that he was on the brink of being anointed by the United Iraqi Alliance to be the country's first democratically elected prime minister.

In an interview with The Associated Press, Chalabi said that if he's chosen prime minister, he would seek to establish an agreement to govern the presence of U.S. troops, and open the heavily fortified Green Zone, now housing government buildings and the U.S. and British embassies, to the Iraqi people.

He also promised to weed out corruption, establish a strong judiciary that would put Saddam Hussein and his former officials on trial "quickly," and give Iraqis the government jobs now held by foreigners recruited by the Coalition Provisional Authority that ran Iraq before the interim government was established.

"I will focus on getting sovereignty, which is the way to establish security," he said.

Chalabi has emerged as one of the two leading candidates to be the clergy-backed alliance's choice when a decision is made, possibly in a secret ballot early next week. The other is interim Vice President Ibrahim al-Jaafari.

The alliance candidate is sure to win the backing of the 275-member parliament chosen in Jan. 30 elections, which gave Chalabi

about 51 percent of the seats. A two-thirds majority is required for approval of the prime minister, but the Kurdish parties apparently have agreed to support the alliance's candidate for prime minister in return for the largely ceremonial presidency.

Chalabi

Pentagon to check reports of rapes

New York Daily News

NEW YORK — Stung by reports of serial rapists in the ranks, the Pentagon said Friday it would investigate soldiers identified by a watchdog group.

More than a year after Defense Secretary Donald Rumsfeld declared "zero tolerance" for rape, the number of troops who claim to have been violated has nearly tripled, the Miles Foundation reported.

"This indicates to us that rape in the ranks continues to be a problem in the military," said Anita Sanchez, spokeswoman for the Connecticut-based foundation. The nonprofit group assists servicemembers who have been sexually assaulted.

Sanchez said the foundation has received 307 reports of sexual assault occurring over the last 30 months from soldiers serving in Iraq, Afghanistan, Kuwait and Bahrain.

"We're looking and trying to determine who these predators are," said Lt. Col. Joe Richard, a Pentagon spokesman.

Under pressure from Congress, the Defense Department recently introduced sweeping policy changes for handling sexual assaults of soldiers.

Sanchez said her organization forwarded the names of the suspected servicemembers to their respective services.

Each has been accused by two or more soldiers who came to the Miles Foundation for help. Six are in the Army, two are in the Marines and one each is in the Navy and Air Force.

Sanchez said they also have gotten reports about a private security guard who allegedly assaulted female soldiers. The alleged perpetrators also included foreign nationals.

Based on victim interviews, the group has identified 10 servicemembers and a military contractor who allegedly each sexually assaulted anywhere from two to two dozen soldiers.

Sanchez declined to release the names of the accused.

Of the 307 reports of sexual assault received by the Miles Foundation, 104 cases already have been reported to military authorities, Sanchez said.

Part of the reason for the difference in numbers may lie in how sexual assaults are defined. Often defense officials will only note alleged cases of forcible rape, she said, while the foundation figures also include less violent assaults.

And Sanchez noted the actual number of sex crimes could be even higher, since many of these types of offenses are not reported to authorities.

"Four of the rape victims are men and we believe the true number is higher," Sanchez said. "In the culture of the military, there is an enormous amount of shame."

Stars and Stripes reporter Leo Shane III contributed to this report.

'The CCB is for an infantry-like job'

Army chief of personnel clarifies criteria for new Close Combat Badge

BY LEO SHANE III

Stars and Stripes

WASHINGTON — The Army's new combat badge is designed to honor non-infantry soldiers performing infantry work, not simply those who find themselves in combat situations, the service's chief of personnel said Friday.

"While everyone in Iraq and Afghanistan is in harm's way, there is a difference between combat operations such as patrols fighting off attacks and deliberately planned offensive combat missions," said Lt. Gen. Franklin L. "Buster" Hagenbeck.

"The [new badge] is the right thing to do to recognize those soldiers in units purposefully reorganized to serve as infantry and conducting infantry-unique missions."

Criteria for the Close Combat Badge, unveiled last week, will mirror that of the Army's 62-year-old Combat Infantry Badge, awarded to infantry units and special forces who engage in active ground combat.

Hagenbeck said the CCB was created after generals in the war on terror complained that "de facto infantry" — non-infantry units that

have been reorganized for that type of combat missions — were not being properly recognized for their work.

The Close Combat Badge will be awarded to soldiers with military occupational specialties in armor, the cavalry, combat engineering, and field artillery. Officers must have a branch or specialty recognized in Army regulations as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

Proposed guide for new badge

Who is eligible:

- Colonel or below for officers; all enlisted soldiers are eligible.
- Enlisted soldiers must have a Military Occupational Specialty in Armor or Cavalry (CMF 19), Artillery (CMF 13), or Combat Engineer (CMF 12).
- Officers must have a branch or specialty officially recognized in Army Regulation 611-1 as "having a high probability to routinely engage in direct combat."

Soldiers must be:

- Assigned or attached to an Army brigade or smaller unit that is purposely organized to routinely conduct close combat operations and engage in direct combat, in accordance with existing Army rules and policy.
- Under fire while engaged in active ground combat, to moving into contact and destroy the enemy with direct fire.

■ Battle or campaign participation is not sufficient to qualify for this award; the unit must have been in active ground combat.

Effective date:

Sept. 11, 2001 (retroactive)

Source: U.S. Army

But other soldiers have complained publicly that other forces caught in ambushes and firefights in Iraq have faced the same combat situations and deserve the honor as well.

On Friday, Hagenbeck called their service commendable, but said the idea behind the combat badges is to recognize those with an infantry mission.

"The CCB is for an infantry-like job," he said. "It's an emotional issue. The CIB has been around for more than 60 years, a lot of discussion went into this. The consensus was that these soldiers needed to be recognized for this job."

Officials plan to make the honor retroactive to Sept. 11, 2001, and want begin awarding the new badge in March, though the actual badge will not be available until the fall.

Hagenbeck said the design for the badge has not been finalized, but plans call for the CIB's rifle to be replaced by a bayonet.

Under current Army rules, all soldiers are allowed to wear their unit patch on their right soldier as a combat patch after surviving 30 days in an authorized combat theater.

Hagenbeck said officials also plan to honor non-Army troops serving with CCB and CIB eligible units with those badges as well, the first time non-Army fighters would receive such an honor.

That could include both U.S. forces and foreign nationals embedded with Army combat units, Hagenbeck said.

E-mail Leo Shane at: shane@stripes.com

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IN THE STATES

Bush lays out goals for European trip

BY DEB RIECHMANN
The Associated Press Writer

WASHINGTON — On the eve of his trip to Europe to patch the trans-Atlantic relationship, President Bush says he doesn't believe the West is split between an "idealistic United States and a cynical Europe."

"America and Europe are the pillars of the free world," Bush said in his weekly radio address Saturday, the day before he leaves on a five-day trip to Belgium, Germany and Slovakia.

"Leaders on both sides of the Atlantic understand that the hopes for peace in the world depend on the continued unity of free nations," he said.

"We do not accept a false caricature that divides the Western world between an idealistic United States and a cynical Europe."

Irak will be a top agenda item during the president's talks with European leaders and officials of NATO, the European Union and the European Commission. The United States wants to see a larger international role in Iraq, particularly in training its military and police.

U.S. hopes for a larger NATO role suffered a setback last Sunday when Germa-



Bush

Mungo Bush, Scottish sheepherder

WASHINGTON — President Mungo Bush?

"Can you imagine if my name had been Mungo Bush?" the president joked Friday when a British reporter asked him to autograph a book for his son, Mungo. Bush seemed amused by the name.

The exchange occurred as Bush was being interviewed at the White House by European journalists in advance of his trip to Belgium, Germany and Slovakia, beginning Sunday. He also was looking forward to going to Scotland in July for a

meeting of the Group of Eight industrialized nations.

That prompted Bush to tell a tale about meeting a Texan when he was at a sheep farm in Scotland back in the 1950s.

"I worked there as a 14-year-old kid," Bush said. "I went from Texas to Scotland to work on a sheep farm. I'm riding a bike. ... A big tour bus stops. They get off and a woman with a Texas accent [said]: 'Look at the little Scottish boy!'"

"I kept my mouth shut," Bush said.

— The Associated Press

ny rebuffed the alliance's request for help to protect U.N. operations in Iraq, France and Germany, which opposed the U.S.-led war that toppled Saddam Hussein, have prevented the alliance from developing a wider role in Iraq, and have refused to send their own troops, even on the training mission in Baghdad that NATO has authorized.

Germany has emphasized its efforts to help Iraq in other ways — through military and police training outside the country, economic aid and debt relief. France has stressed its command of NATO peacekeeping missions in Kosovo and Afghanistan.

In his radio address, Bush didn't mention the NATO mission.

Instead, he singled out nations that helped with the Jan. 30 elections in Iraq.

"In Iraq, our shared commitment to free elections has stripped the car bombers and assassins of their most powerful weapon, their claim to represent the wishes and aspirations of the Iraqi people," he said.

"In these elections, the European Union provided vital technical assistance, NATO is helping to train army officers, police and civilian administrators of a new Iraq and 21 of our European coalition partners are providing forces on the ground."

Outlining his goals for the trip, the president also said he would discuss how to best advance peace between Israel and the Pal-

estinians; trade issues; and reducing European barriers to American agricultural goods.

"Even the best of friends do not agree on everything," he said, adding that America and Europe need to cooperate to fight terrorism and poverty and promote trade and peace.

"That makes our trans-Atlantic ties as vital as they have ever been," he said.

In advance of his trip, Bush on Friday spoke of Iran during interviews at the White House with broadcasters and correspondents from Russia, France, Belgium, Slovakia and Germany.

He said the United States does not intend to attack Iran to crush its suspected nuclear weapons project and expressed hopes that a European diplomatic initiative would persuade Tehran to abandon any such program.

When asked about an opinion poll showing that 70 percent of Germans believe the United States is planning military action against Iran, Bush replied: "I hear all these rumors about military attacks, and it's just not the truth."

He said he wants diplomacy to succeed in persuading Iran not to produce nuclear weapons.

Bush said he supports European nations' efforts to persuade Iran to scrap its uranium enrichment program in exchange for technological, financial and political support.

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Bishops say new claims of abuse mostly old cases

BY RACHEL ZOLL
The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — Roman Catholic bishops say the 1,092 new sex abuse claims against American priests and deacons last year do not signal that molesters are rampant in parishes today.

Most of the alleged abuse occurred decades ago and nearly three-quarters of the 756 accused clerics had died, been defrocked or been removed from public ministry before the claims were made in 2004, church leaders said Friday.

The figures came from a survey of U.S. bishops commissioned to help restore trust in their leadership after the abuse crisis erupted in January 2002 in the Archdiocese of Boston and spread nationwide. A companion audit found that nearly all the nation's 195 dioceses were fully complying with the child protection programs that prelates mandated nearly three years ago. Dioceses and religious orders said they spent more than \$20 million on child protection last year.

Still, the financial fallout continues. Kathleen McChesney, head of the bishops' Office of Child and Youth Protection, said the total payout to victims has now climbed to at least \$340 million since 1950.

"The crisis of sexual abuse of minors within the Catholic Church is

not over," McChesney said. "What is over is the denial that this problem exists."

The audit was conducted by teams comprised mainly of former FBI agents who visited dioceses across the country.

Victims' groups called the audits misleading, saying bishops had too much control over the review and victims had too little input.

They also argued that revelations about the large number of new claims in 2004 was evidence that abuse was much more widespread than church leaders had previously been willing to acknowledge.

Last year, the bishops released an unprecedented statistical review that found 4,392 priests had been accused of molesting minors in 10,667 cases between 1950 and 2002 alone. Like that report, the new survey found that most of the alleged victims were boys from the ages of 10 to 14.

David Clohessy, national director of the Survivors Network of those Abused by Priests, said it would be "reckless" to conclude that no children were at risk of abuse now in the church. The bishops said only 22 of the new claims came from people who are minors now. The others were from adults who said they had been victimized as young children.

Asked whether prelates had taken steps to hold each other accountable on abuse, Bishop William Skylstad, president of the U.S. Conference of Catholic Bishops, said it was a "complex issue." Only the pope can discipline bishops, who independently run their dioceses.

"I can't second-guess the individual decisions of bishops," Skylstad said.



A customer looks at videos in a Blockbuster store in Newark, N.J. The state of New Jersey filed a consumer-protection lawsuit Friday charging that Blockbuster Inc. failed to disclose key terms in its new late fees policy.

AP

New Jersey sues Blockbuster over new 'no late fees' policy

BY JEFFREY GOLD
The Associated Press

NEWARK, N.J. — The state of New Jersey claims Blockbuster Inc., the nation's largest movie-rental chain, has violated the state's consumer protection laws with its new policy on late fees.

In a lawsuit filed Friday, the state charged that Blockbuster failed to disclose key terms in the policy, including that overdue rentals are automatically converted to a sale on the eighth day after the due date.

The state is seeking restitution for customers whose overdue rentals were converted to a sale. It also wants compensation for people who were charged late fees by stores that were not participating in the new policy, but that failed to make that obvious.

State Attorney General Peter C. Harvey on Friday called the company's advertising and marketing "de-

ceptive." He said state investigators began visiting dozens of the 170 Blockbuster stores in New Jersey even before receiving a complaint, and found that employees gave misleading or erroneous information on the policy.

To date, one aggrieved customer has contacted the state, Harvey said, adding, "We will be flooded with complaints from people who will tell us this is their experience, too."

The lawsuit was filed in state Superior Court in Trenton.

In a statement, the Dallas-based chain said it has "taken a number of very thorough steps to let customers know how our new program works. Blockbuster has trained store employees on how to effectively communicate the program to customers, both on the sales floor and at checkouts."

Blockbuster eliminated late fees on games and movies starting Jan. 1, although customers who miss a one-week grace period will be billed for buying the item or charged a \$1.25 restocking fee.



Skylstad

Panel: Painkillers' benefits outweigh proven health risk

The Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The popular painkillers Celebrex and Bextra are likely to stay on the market, and Vioxx may remain, now that government advisers have concluded their benefits outweigh their risks.

The advisers said Friday that people who depend on these drugs should be allowed to keep using them despite risks of heart problems and strokes. They suggested the prescription products carry strong warnings and recommended a long-term study.

While the Food and Drug Administration isn't required to follow the recommendations of its advisory groups, it generally does.

Celebrex and Bextra, made by Pfizer Inc., are widely sold

and are likely to remain so following the recommendations. The panel voted 31-1 to keep Celebrex on sale and 17-13 with two abstaining for Bextra.

Merck & Co., which pulled Vioxx off the market Sept. 30, suggested that a positive ruling by the advisers might lead it to consider putting the drug back on sale. But the vote recommending that it be made available to consumers was close, 17-15. Since Vioxx was removed from the market voluntarily, it remains an approved drug. Merck issued a statement following the vote saying only that it was looking forward to FDA talks.

Meeting Chairman Alastair J.J. Wood of Vanderbilt University Medical School said, "The data are very compelling; Vioxx is substantially worse than the others."

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Lack of closure haunts victims of club fire

Two years after R.I. fire, many feel little resolution

BY ELIZABETH ZUCKERMAN

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — In the two years since The Station nightclub fire in West Warwick killed 100 people and injured 200 others, the state's fire codes have been tightened, three people have been criminally charged and funds to help the victims have paid out millions of dollars.

But those stronger fire codes have been since been loosened, the criminal trial won't start until next year and some families continue to struggle with financial challenges brought on by crippling injuries or the deaths of their loved ones.

Two years after the Feb. 20, 2003, fire, the survivors and victims' families are still waiting for resolution.

Anne Marie D'Alessio, director of the Rhode Island Victims' Advocacy and Support Center, said that for many people, the second anniversary of the fire is harder than the first.

"Last year, people were still in shock," she said. Now, "reality is setting in more."

Nightclub owners Jeffrey and Michael Derderian, and Daniel Biechele, the former fire manager for the band Great White, pleaded innocent in December 2003 to 200 counts each of involuntary manslaughter. Their criminal trial isn't expected to begin until January 2006 at the earliest.

The fire was started after the band's pyrotechnics set on fire highly flammable foam that had been placed around the stage as soundproofing.

For those affected by the fire, waiting for that trial is difficult, D'Alessio said.

"While people are still moving forward ... you're kind of held hostage," she said. "There's no closure. That's a myth. But you can close chapters."

Second anniversary

What's changed since last year? Strict fire codes enacted after the deadly blaze have been loosened in some instances.

What hasn't? Many survivors and victims' families are still turning to charity funds to help out with expenses such as counseling, health insurance and child care.

What's on the horizon? The criminal case won't start until at least next January. The civil trial isn't expected to start until the criminal trial is finished. And a memorial families hope to build on the site of the fire might have to wait for the civil suits to be resolved.

From The Associated Press

Lawsuits against the three men, as well as members of the band, state officials and a host of companies, are on hold while the criminal case goes forward.

While the legal issues have crawled, there are signs of progress.

In September, the largest single source of charitable help for those affected by the fire, The Station Nightclub Fire Relief Fund, stopped providing direct financial assistance. It had distributed about \$2.76 million for funerals, housing, emergency travel, food, clothing and a range of social services.

Other financial help has come from the state Crime Victims Compensation Fund. Survivors of the fire and victims' families qualified for the fund after the Derderians and Biechele were criminally charged.

Catherine Avila, the state's deputy treasurer for administration, said the state has received 256 applications to the fund, paid 117 of the claims, and is reviewing the others.

Another small step forward for victims' families is a recent decision by the attorney general's office to release to families the personal effects found in the rubble of the club.

Less than five months after the fire, Gov. Don Carcieri signed into law what was believed to be one of the toughest sets of fire-safety regulations in the nation.

By July 1, nightclubs and other places of assembly that hold 300 or more people must install sprinklers.

In the past year, however, lawmakers responded to pleas from businesses who said they couldn't afford the changes, or couldn't make them in time, empowering a state board to grant extensions for meeting the new codes.



House Speaker William Murphy, D-West Warwick, holds a wreath remembering the victims of The Station nightclub fire Thursday, prior to the memorial service in Providence, R.I.

Statehouse holds memorial

BY ELIZABETH ZUCKERMAN

The Associated Press

PROVIDENCE, R.I. — Nearly two years later, Gina Mattera said the fire that took her sister's life is as hard to face as it was when it happened.

But, surrounded by others who lost loved ones in The Station nightclub fire, she smiled anyway as she recalled the big sister she called a partner in crime.

"She was so fun, so full of life. She was just crazy. She would do anything on a dare," Mattera said on Thursday, remembering Tammy Mattera-Housa, whose beaming face she wore printed on her shirt.

Mattera, 21, of Warwick, and others affected by the fire gathered at the Statehouse on Thursday evening for a ceremony to

mark the fire's second anniversary.

Gov. Don Carcieri and his wife, Sue, laid a wreath of white flowers and blue ribbons for the victims and the others affected by the blaze. It was to remain in the Statehouse Rotunda for a week.

Sarah Mancini of North Kingstown lost her son Keith in the fire.

"I found that this year was harder than last year," she said.

Mancini said she appreciated the ceremony because she said it's evidence the state has not forgotten those affected by the fire.

"To me, that is the most important thing in the world, that they're not forgetting us," she said.

The dozens of others who lined the stairs in the Statehouse Rotunda on Thursday were a comfort, she said.

Family begs for remains

DAYTON, Ohio — The parents of a girl missing since 1999, apparently killed by a van, appealed publicly Thursday for the man accused of disposing of her body to tell where she is.

Nine-year-old Erica Baker vanished while walking her dog near her home in Kettering, in southwest Ohio. Prosecutors say they believe she was hit by a van and her body was disposed of.

Earlier this month, a prison inmate, Christian John Gabriel, 33, was indicted on charges of abuse of a corpse and tampering with evidence. No one else has been charged.

Erica's parents, Greg and

Misty Baker, saw him for the first time Thursday as he was arraigned via a video hookup in the Montgomery County Common Pleas Court.

"All I've got to say is: Christian Gabriel, you know where she is, you know what they did with her. Just give us our daughter," Greg Baker said to reporters.

Prosecutors have not said why they believe that people disposed of the girl's body, or why they believe the death was not reported as an accident. They do say they think Gabriel may have been driving the van.

Gabriel, who is serving a nine-month prison sentence for receiving stolen property, said nothing during the arraignment.

From The Associated Press

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Koko's ex-handlers sue foundation

Knight Ridder Newspapers

SAN JOSE, Calif. — We already knew that Koko the gorilla liked sign language, kittens and painting. But nipples?

That's what two fired handlers at the Gorilla Foundation in Woodside, Calif., say they were told by the organization's president, Francine "Penny" Patterson. In a lawsuit filed Tuesday in San Mateo County court, the handlers say Patterson demanded the two women bare their breasts to the famed lowland primate because Patterson believes the animal enjoys it. An attorney for the Foundation flatly denied the allegations Friday.

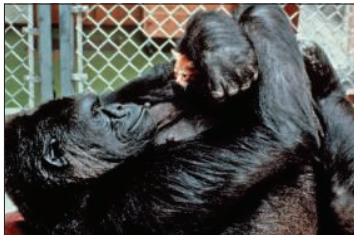
The handlers, Nancy Alperin and Kendra Keller, claim that last summer, Patterson told them their job status would suffer if they did not indulge Koko's "nipple fetish."

On several occasions in May

through June of last year, Patterson told Alperin that "exposing one's breasts to Koko was a normal component to developing a personal bond with the gorilla," the suit alleges.

The women refused. A few weeks later, they alerted the state health department of sanitary problems at the preserve, such as gorilla urine being stored in a refrigerator with human food. The Foundation fired them on Aug. 6, the day after the health department inspected the facility, according to the lawsuit. Court records show the inspectors fined the preserve \$300 on Aug. 24.

Alperin and Keller are suing Patterson and the foundation for sexual discrimination, wrongful termination, and negligent infliction of emotional distress, among other allegations. They are seeking just over \$1 million in damages.



Koko, the gorilla who converses in sign language, is seen admiring a kitten in 1985. Two fired caretakers for Koko have sued their former boss, claiming they were pressured by her to expose their breasts as a way of bonding with the gorilla.

Storms batter Calif.

LOS ANGELES — Thunderstorms packing 60 mph wind gusts, soaking rain and nickel-size hail pounded already waterlogged Southern California on Saturday, closing major highways and threatening to set off mudslides.

La Conchita, the coastal hamlet where 10 people were killed by a huge landslide last month, was deserted as the U.S. Geological Survey warned that none of the roughly 150 remaining homes could be considered safe. The town northwest of Los Angeles faces a "rather bewildering variety of landslide hazards," a USGS report said.

A two-mile stretch of Interstate 5 through the City of Commerce, south of downtown Los Angeles, was closed for several hours early Saturday after it was flooded by a foot of water, the California Highway Patrol said. Crews had to pump the highway dry.

From the Associated Press

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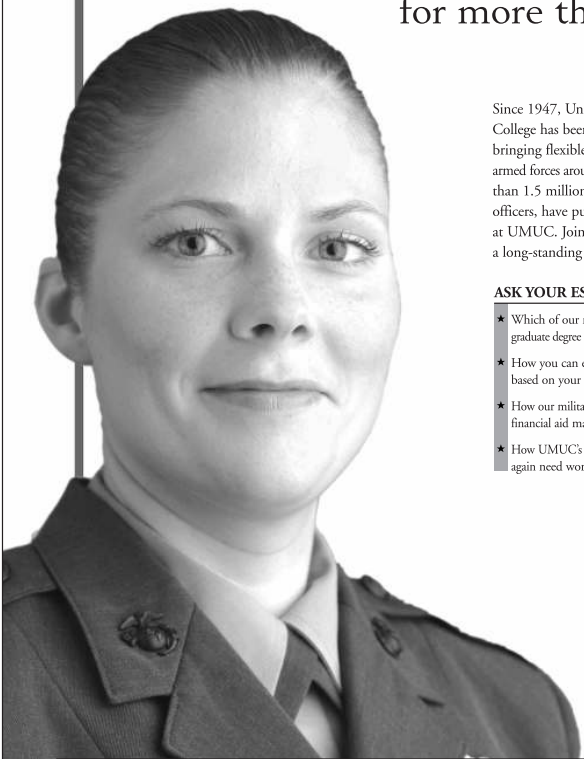
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Casino seeks fat cats but shuns big waitresses

N.J.'s Borgata institutes weight policy for its cocktail servers

BY JOHN CURRAN
The Associated Press

ATLANTIC CITY, N.J. — The Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa has told cocktail servers if they pack on too many pounds, they'll get an unpaid suspension to lose the weight — or be fired.

The policy will apply to anyone gaining more than 7 percent of their body weight; weight gain related to pregnancy or a medical condition will be exempt, casino officials said. The company will pay to put the offender through a weight-loss program during the up-to-90-day suspension.

The policy was laid out in a letter to employees last week. It infuriated some women's advocates.

"Women should not have to starve themselves just to keep their jobs," said Diana Zuckerman, president of the National Research Center for Women & Families, a Washington, D.C.-based advocacy group. "The policy places enormous stress on all the women

and encourages eating disorders to reach a totally arbitrary goal."

The casino, whose edgy marketing themes and sexy accents have helped bowl over the competition since opening in July 2003, contends there's nothing wrong with setting weight limits for its 210 costumed beverage servers — 160 servers dubbed Borgata Babes and 50 male and female bartenders.

A Borgata vice president, Cassie Freeman, said the policy clarifies existing appearance standards: that women servers should have "natural hourglass figures" and men "V-shaped torsos, broad shoulders and slim waists." No weight limits were ever set, however, she said. "Our costumed beverage servers are a huge part of our marketing and our branding image," she said. "We feel it's fair, we feel it's legal, we feel it's what our customers have come to expect at Borgata."

Local 54 of the Hotel Employees and Restaurant Employees union has filed a grievance.



Borgata cocktail servers Megan Mercado, left, and Sara Jamison fill orders for customers at the Borgata Hotel Casino & Spa in Atlantic City, N.J. Beginning Monday, the casino is imposing weight limits on its cocktail servers that — if violated — could lead to their suspension or even termination.

Survey: Police vary widely on prostitution enforcement

BY THOMAS HARGROVE

Scripta Howard News Service

America's prostitutes are learning that some streets are tougher to walk than others.

Police departments in many cities routinely arrest thousands of women — and sometimes their male clients — in aggressive programs to suppress street prostitution. But many other law-enforcement agencies make only token arrests, especially in upscale suburbs where police admit that call-girl operations frequently flourish through openly advertised escort services and massage parlors.

"Prostitutes don't carry guns. They carry condoms. So it's easy to arrest them. And it's fun," complained former San Francisco prostitute Robyn Few, founder of the Sex Workers Outreach Project, which advocates decriminalization of prostitution.

The rates at which sex workers and their clients are arrested vary dramatically from state to state, according to a Scripta Howard News Service study of federal arrest reports, and vary even among police agencies within each state. "It all is determined by whoever the local law-enforcement leadership is and what sort of policies they want to make," said the Rev. Ann Hayman, program director of the Mary Magdalene Project to help sex workers in Van Nuys, Calif., near Los Angeles.

Experts warn that low arrest rates probably do not mean communities are free of prostitution, although it may mean fewer women literally are walking the streets.

"Local police and prosecutors

Prostitution arrests

Here are the 10 police departments with the highest per capita arrest rates for prostitution according to a Scripta Howard News Service analysis of the FBI's Uniform Crime Report for 2002.

The first figures are the reported number of prostitution-related arrests for that year, the second shows the arrest rate per 100,000 population.

City	Arrests per 100,000
Elizabeth, N.J.	609
Fort Worth, Texas	423
Atlanta	314
Las Vegas	310
Baltimore	309
Dayton, Ohio	279
Hartford, Conn.	274
Inglewood, Calif.	205
Memphis, Tenn.	203
Chicago	190

Scripta Howard News Service

sometimes make the judgment that indoor prostitution is preferable to the outdoor kind because it is less noticeable. The more attractive, healthy women are able to work the indoor prostitution," said University of Wisconsin law professor Michael Scott, a former police chief in Florida.

The Scripta Howard study examined prostitution arrest rates for 269 police departments, comparing the number of arrests in 2002 to the size of the population under each police jurisdiction. Nationally, there was an average of 46 prostitution-related arrests for every 100,000 people.

California leads the country in prostitution arrests, with 12,351 of the nation's 67,287 total.

Accusations curtain Minn. group

ST. PAUL, Minn. — In their blazing red capes, superhero suits and ski goggles, the boisterous men known as the Vulcans have carried out merry mischief during the city's Winter Carnival for more than 100 years.

But allegations this month that the group's leader groped three women in a bar have raised questions about the future of one of the most colorful pieces of St. Paul's history.

"I don't want to see them go away," said Gina

Kuntz, 32, of St. Paul, who remembered the excitement she felt as a child when the Vulcans came barreling down a parade route. "I always tried to get their attention. They were fun ... I thought they were like clowns."

Carnival organizers last week granted a leave of absence to the group's leader, Tom Trudeau, also known as Vulcanus Rex, and restricted the group's activities. Bob Viking, the festival CEO, said a special panel would consider changing the way the group operates.

From The Associated Press

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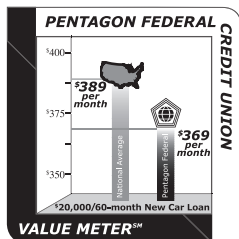
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IN THE WORLD

Brussels braces for mayhem with Bush visit

BY ROBERT WIELAARD

The Associated Press

BRUSSELS, Belgium — Brussels braced on Saturday for a three-day visit by President Bush, who starts a conciliatory swing through Europe for talks with more than two dozen European leaders.

Bush arrives Sunday evening, confident he can heal the rift with Europe that opened during his first term, notably over the Iraq war.

Brussels police are mounting an unprecedented security operation, deploying 2,500 officers — 1,000 more than usually deployed

for the three or four summits that bring EU leaders to the Belgian capital each year.

An alliance of 88 environmental, human rights, peace and other groups are planning two days of protests to demand "no European complicity" in a U.S.-designed world order. Police say streets will be cordoned off and public transportation rerouted or limited.



Bush

See related story on Page 9

ed.

The 'Stop Bush' campaign plans protests near the U.S. embassy in downtown Brussels on Monday and near the EU headquarters on Tuesday. Its Web site accuses Bush of "crimes against humanity and the planet."

It features a litany of reasons to "stop Bush," calling Washington a major obstacle to a world order "based on international law." The protesters say Bush's administration is eroding efforts to combat global warming and is guilty of "human rights violations at home

and abroad in the name of national security."

On Monday, Bush meets with King Albert II at the Royal Palace and with Belgian Prime Minister Guy Verhofstadt before giving a speech on trans-Atlantic relations. In the evening, he is to dine with French President Jacques Chirac, his primary opponent to the war in Iraq.

Ahead of their meetings with Bush, European leaders have signaled a keenness to narrow the gap with Washington on Iraq and other contentious issues.

In his weekly radio address Saturday, Bush said he doesn't believe the West is split between an "idealistic United States and a cynical Europe."

"America and Europe are the pillars of the free world," Bush said.

"Leaders on both sides of the Atlantic understand that the hopes for peace in the world depend on the continued unity of free nations," he said. "We do not accept a false caricature that divides the Western world between an idealistic United States and a cynical Europe." Iraq will be a top agenda item during Bush's talks. The United States wants to see a larger international role in Iraq, particularly in training its military and police.

On Monday, EU foreign ministers are to announce the opening of an EU office in Baghdad to oversee a democracy-building program that will train hundreds of Iraqi judges and prosecutors.

U.N. team to investigate assassination of former Lebanon leader Hariri

The Associated Press

UNITED NATIONS — Secretary-General Kofi Annan is sending a team led by Ireland's deputy police commissioner to Beirut in the next few days to investigate the assassination of former Lebanese Prime Minister Rafik Hariri, the U.N. spokesman announced Friday.

Annan's decision to send the team is in response to a request from the U.N. Security Council that he urgently report on "the circumstances, causes and consequences" of Hariri's killing, the spokesman's statement said.

"The team will make contact with Lebanese officials and others to gather such information as necessary for the secretary-general to the council in a timely manner," the statement said.

Peter Fitzgerald, the team leader, has been a deputy Irish police

commissioner since 1998 and has worked in U.N. peacekeeping operations in Namibia and Cambodia and was police commissioner in Bosnia until February 1997. He also served as a member of the independent team that investigated security at U.N. headquarters in Baghdad before the Aug. 19 bombing that killed 22 people and injured over 160.

The statement said the team going to Beirut "will consist of staff with relevant expertise" but no other names were announced.

The Security Council on Tuesday expressed grave concern at the possible impact of Hariri's assassination on the ongoing efforts of the Lebanese people to solidify democracy and stressed that the "terrorist act" must not jeopardize upcoming parliamentary elections.

The United States called on Syria to withdraw its 15,000 troops from Lebanon, as the U.N. resolution adopted Sept. 2 called for.

U.N. refugee chief case

UNITED NATIONS — U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan consulted lawyers on the future of Roud Lubbers as U.N. refugee chief, clearly angered at the resurgence of allegations of sexual harassment against him, this time with graphic details.

There were growing indications Friday that Lubbers could be forced out as Annan tries to deal with other scandals, including the U.N. oil-for-food program in Iraq and sexual abuse of children in the Congo by U.N. peacekeepers sent to protect them.

U.N. diplomats, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Annan was taking legal advice.

EU constitution support

MADRID, Spain — The prime minister made an emotional appeal for massive turnout in Spain's referendum Sunday on the European Union constitution

saying it will make the continent safer and help fight terrorism.


Jose Luis Rodriguez Zapatero concluded campaigning for the referendum on Friday night, saying the constitution was as important for Spaniards as the one they approved for their own country in 1978.

N. Korea, U.S. talks

BELTING — North Korea no longer wants direct negotiations with the United States to ease the nuclear standoff, China's state news agency Saturday said a North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said, as a top Chinese official met with the communist regime's No. 2 leader.

The North Korean foreign ministry spokesman said Pyongyang was no longer willing to hold direct talks with Washington because of what it described as the United States' alleged persistent attempts to try to topple the communist regime, the Xinhua News Agency said.

From The Associated Press



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OPINION

What newspapers are saying at home

The following editorial excerpts are selected from a cross section of newspapers throughout the United States. The editorials are provided by The Associated Press and other stateside syndicates.

FDA pick has tools to help San Jose (Calif.) Mercury News

President Bush proved Monday that he doesn't cater to the pharmaceutical industry's every whim.

The president has been under pressure to pick someone with close ties to the industry as the new commissioner of the Food and Drug Administration. His choice of acting commissioner Lester Crawford, who has extensive experience in food safety issues, deserves bipartisan support and quick confirmation by the Senate.

Critics will pounce on Crawford's performance since taking over as acting commissioner in March 2004. They will argue that his selection is less than inspiring, particularly in the area of controlling prescription drug costs.

His very status as acting commissioner hampered his ability to show strong leadership at an agency he acknowledges is in need of an overhaul. The FDA, which has a \$1.8 billion budget and a staff of more than 10,000, has gone without a permanent commissioner for more than half of Bush's presidency. Crawford is well-suited to bring necessary reforms to the FDA in four major areas:

- protecting the U.S. food supply from terrorism;
- ramping up the nation's vaccination programs, particularly in regard to flu outbreaks and bioterrorism threats;
- strengthening the process of monitoring the safety of drugs already on the market, including consideration of an independent drug safety center; and
- resolving the issue of re-importing prescription drugs from outside the United States.

Crawford's four years at the FDA provide him with ample knowledge of the agency's inner workings. Besides his background as a veterinarian and pharmacologist, Crawford brings expertise in food safety from his experience as administrator of Virginia Tech's Center for Food and Nutrition Policy. He is a good choice to enforce the FDA's role as the nation's foremost consumer protection agency.

Voluntary HIV testing is smart Rochester (N.Y.) Democrat and Chronicle

The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention estimate that nearly 300,000 Americans are HIV-positive and don't know it.

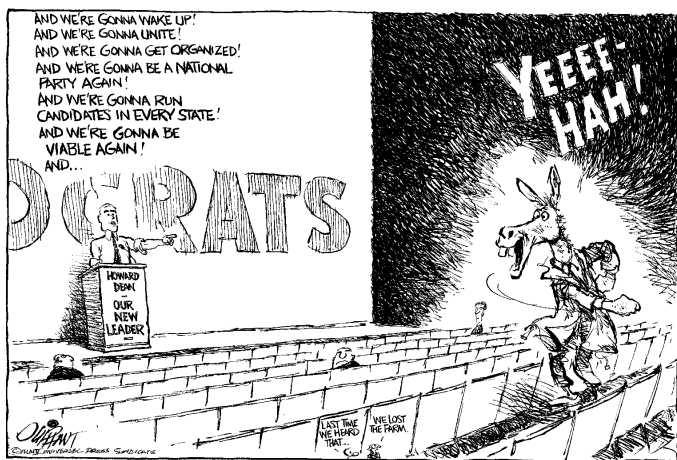
Results from two federally funded studies suggest that routine, voluntary HIV testing could lead to fewer infections and better treatment. The idea deserves the serious consideration the CDC is giving it.

Nearly 40 percent of people with HIV in the United States don't learn they have the disease until their immune systems are so badly damaged they become sick. At that point, effective treatment is often compromised. And a person who spends a long period unaware of an HIV infection is more likely to spread it.

Most voluntary HIV tests part of the medical culture, like cancer screenings or cholesterol tests, would cut down on the number of infections spread by people who don't know their HIV status.

Getting primary care doctors to offer and encourage HIV tests would be especially helpful for populations at especially high risk, such as African American women, who make up 65 percent of new female HIV infections in America.

Knowing one's HIV status should be the norm. The CDC-recommended testing for those at risk could help slow the spread of this disease.



Compromise good for Iraq The Sacramento (Calif.) Bee

Whatever else it may mean, the final tally of votes in Iraq's Jan. 30 election for a provisional national assembly carries a hopeful message: No single party is likely to dominate Iraqi politics for the foreseeable future. Thus forming a government and writing a constitution will require compromise, a fundamental tenet of democracy.

Despite its first-place finish, with 48 percent of the popular vote and 140 of the 275 seats in the assembly, the United Iraqi Alliance, dominated by two Shiite religious parties, will not have a large enough majority to dictate either the shape of the government or the content of the constitution, both of which require a two-thirds majority. That diminishes the likelihood that the most rigid elements of Islamic law will be embedded in the country's basic charter.

That doesn't mean the road ahead will be smooth.

What might help, in Iraq and elsewhere, is a more active role by European governments that opposed the Iraq war — Germany and France especially and, perhaps even more important, by the Arab world.

Autocratic regimes there have taken no meaningful steps toward popular sovereignty, notwithstanding the lip service they have paid to free elections in trying to realize the promise that lies before them.

Dean there to set the stage Herald News, West Paterson, N.J.

Before the Iowa caucuses, presidential hopeful Howard Dean was the most popular Vermont since Ben and Jerry. Like ice cream, Dean didn't hold up to intense heat. The former governor let out a war whoop during his concession speech in Iowa, and the media destroyed him. Rumors of Dean's political death were greatly exaggerated. Last weekend, he was elected chairman of the Democratic National Committee. ...

The party chairman is not really the frontman for the party; the 2008 presidential nominee will fill that role. In the interim, Democrats need to build up local party machinery. They need someone who understands grass-roots organizations. They need someone who is willing to step back and let the candidates take center stage. Dean may be better suited for that role

than Republicans think. Dean's first test will be gubernatorial races in New Jersey and Virginia in November.

To win back Congress and the White House, Democrats need a message that appeals to moderate, and even some conservative, voters. If successful, Democrats will have something to cheer. Dean would be advised this time around to keep his enthusiasm in check.

Wrong to put Kyoto on shelf The Daytona Beach (Fla.) News-Journal

Glaciers are retreating in mountains from Alaska to the Andes to Tibet. An age-old Antarctic ice shelf the size of Rhode Island shatters and melts into the sea. Greenland's ice, which holds enough water to raise ocean levels 21 feet, is starting to melt. ...

Yet James Inhofe, the Oklahoma senator and chairman of an environmental committee, calls global warming the "greatest hoax ever perpetrated on the American people."

Inhofe's thinking is echoed more mildly by the White House and is winning the day in the United States for now, at least politically. On Wednesday, the Kyoto Protocol on Climate Change went into effect, but without American participation. It isn't just a failure of diplomacy characteristic of the Bush administration, which has been either unwilling to negotiate through international forums or inept at doing so. It is a failure of imagination as well. The administration's promised alternative to Kyoto has yet to coalesce in the form of policy. ...

The United States contributes more than a quarter of the world's pollution (and greenhouse gases). Its absence from the treaty means progress on emissions will be even slower, if at all effective.

Border between law and order The San Diego Union-Tribune

Suppose that, whenever the federal government wanted to build a major project ... it simply exempted itself from the labyrinth of environmental laws that applied to everyone else. Why have such laws in the first place, if Washington is going to sweep them aside for its own convenience while enforcing them rigorously against all other parties?

This question is more than academic

now that the House has voted to waive all state and federal environmental laws in order to speed completion of the proposed triple-fence barrier at the [U.S.-Mexican] border [south of San Diego]. In our view, such a blanket exemption is not only unnecessary but also hypocritical. Worse, it would establish a terrible precedent, undermining the fundamental idea that no one, least of all the federal government, is above the law. ...

The Senate should stand firm against the sweeping House waiver.

A victory for the status quo The (Toledo, Ohio) Blade

House Republican leaders in Washington have delivered an unmistakable message to Capitol Hill: Don't bother to lodge ethics complaints, no matter how offensive the conduct of corruption.

They did so by firing the chairman of the ethics committee, replacing him with a more pliable associate, and adding to the panel two members who have made no secret of their support for at least one major ethics scofflaw. Majority Leader Tom DeLay of Texas.

The action makes it less likely that House members will take the time to complain about the kind of incipient corruption that goes on daily in and about the halls of Congress. In a process that already was difficult to negotiate, the deck is further stacked against them.

Visa rules reach happy medium The Orlando (Fla.) Sentinel

Uncle Sam made a smart move in easing visa rules for many foreign students and scientists.

Under rules adopted in 1998, students and scientists in fields considered sensitive had to renew their visas every year. But tighter security after the Sept. 11 terrorist attacks lengthened the average wait for renewals to more than two months. The delays have led some foreign students and scientists to take their talents to America's economic competitors.

Now the State Department will give students up to four years, and scientists up to two, between visa renewals. Homeland Security officials have blessed the change.

As long as it can be done without compromising national security, it will always be in America's best interest to attract the best and brightest from around the world.

Sunday Horoscope

The moon is void of course, making it a lovely time for loafing. Everyone has the voice of a Type A personality somewhere deep inside that will protest the idea of easing chips and watching the television as if it were in danger of being stolen away at any second. But sometimes giving the id what it wants is the fastest way back to productivity.

TODAY'S BIRTHDAY

(February 20). The ideas you come up with this year could make you rich. Value yourself and your brainchildren, and the world finds value in you. Romance has a giddy quality all spring. Singles have fun flirting with the possibilities for settling down. Summer features education. The more you learn, the more you earn. Love signs are Sagittarius and Cancer.

ARIES (March 21-April 19)

You're an innocent, an urchin on an adventure, face to face with a looming choice. Do you dare to open Door No. 37? You have no idea what you'll encounter. The only way to find out is to turn the handle.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20)

When you're searching for a hide-out, it's a sign that there's something you need to confront. Instead of weighing the options and thinking about how to play a situation, trust yourself enough to jump in. You'll be fine.

GEMINI (May 21-June 21)

The temporal nature of this life is profound in your mind. As the Five for Fighting song says, "I'm 33 for a moment," or 15 or 99. Have the courage to embody your "moment."

CANCER (June 22-July 22)

Put on some skates, jump on the trampoline, or plan a trip to the amusement park. Doing something to recapture your youth fills you with joy, health and hope. Sagittarius and Gemini make the best partners in fun.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22). Daily rituals are important to your sense of well-being. A balanced life depends on actions you can comfort-

ably repeat. It's probably up to you to preserve the dignity of a tradition, like no cell phones at the family dinner table.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22)

You want it bad now, so don't try — do. As far as that possibility goes, you'd be surprised at what is really possible when excuses are no longer an option. Even an ironclad decision can be reversed.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 23)

You're strong now and will remain so if you make a point to shun all ploy and sympathy, especially the kind you give yourself. A change in your appearance will bring favorable results. Risk it.

SCORPIO (Oct. 24-Nov. 21)

When you know what you want (like you do today), almost any path leads to it. Make inquiries. Doors swing open wide. Get out and circulate. You bring lucky people into your life and renew old contacts.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21)

With a peek into someone else's life, you expand your view of your own. You're looking for definable, moral guidelines but will likely discover there's more gray area than you ever imagined. This should be freeing.

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19)

Cancer to disagree. The odd mess is not "out," it's a message more "in." You could be privy to special information or invited into an exclusive situation because you're no different from the rest.

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18)

When people come together for a high-minded cause, it's nothing to take for granted. You'll act in a way to protect the integrity of a group by making sure that all parties are present and accountable.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20)

New information you get today is like the lightning that hit Ben Franklin's kite. Sure, it's shocking, but it could also be turned into something hugely meaningful and useful. Think it over.

Creators Syndicate

'Big Easy' once a book title

What is the source of the nickname "the Big Easy" for New Orleans?

New Orleans, like many other distinctive cities, has a good handful of nicknames, but none is as well known as "the Big Easy."

According to our research, it first showed up in 1970 as the title of a novel about New Orleans by James Conaway.

The 1970 book was made into a popular movie in 1986, and from that point the term became much more widely used.

Conaway is often credited

with inventing the famous name himself, although one of our citations from a 1988 article in Harper's Magazine suggests otherwise: "Liebling was conjuring up the city before 1960 (it was a poor, peculiar, happy place, ...). Only local black people and a handful of hipsters knew to call it the Big Easy." As it stands, however, we have no written evidence of "the Big Easy" prior to Conaway's 1970 novel.

This column was prepared by the editors of Merriam-Webster's Collegiate Dictionary, Tenth Edition. Readers may send questions to Merriam-Webster's Dictionary, P.O. Box 261, 47 Federal St., Springfield, Mass. 01102.

Woman cannot force fiancé's parents to love her, daughter

safely address them to you.

Dear Abby: I'm a successful, 25-year-old professional woman, in an amazing relationship with a man I'll call "Riley." We plan to be married in June.

The worm in the apple is this: His parents are not happy with the fact that I have an 8-year-old daughter, "Kyra." I was raped at 16 and chose to keep my baby.

Riley loves Kyra, and vice versa. But Riley's parents can't accept Kyra and me. It hurts my daughter not to be accepted, just as it hurts me. Riley has talked to his parents about the situation, but they are stubborn. How can I get his parents to love us as their son has?

— **Hurt in the Midwest**
Dear Hurt: You could claim for your love from now until the cows come home, but you can't instill love in someone's heart if it isn't there to begin with. And if you were by some miracle able to achieve it, it could take years.

Even if Riley demanded that his mother and father treat you and your daughter with kindness and respect, there is no guarantee they would comply. Please take this into consideration before proceeding with your wedding plans.

Dear Abby: I am the mother of a 9-year-old daughter, "Blanca," who lives with her father. While Blanca was visiting me last summer, she noticed that she was "changing" physically. I took it upon myself to talk with my daughter about her changes and all of the things that come with going through puberty, including getting her monthly cycle.

Blanca came back to visit at Christmas and informed me that her father and stepmother had told her that she is too young to talk about her cycle. I want to confront them about this, but how do I do it without being offensive? Blanca's father is very controlling and has a temper, and the smallest statement always leads to chaos. I am worried that my daughter may be punished because she told me what they said to her.

— **Worried in the Southwest**
Dear Worried: You did the right thing in talking to your daughter. Your ex-husband and his wife appear to be ignorant of the fact that girls are maturing at younger and younger ages, and need to know what to expect as their bodies develop. Rather than "confronting" them, make it clear to Blanca that if she has any questions, she can always

Dear Abby



No harm in son's fiancée calling her future in-laws Mom and dad

Dear Annie: We have two children — "Jan," our 34-year-old married daughter, and "Ben," age 38, who is engaged to "Iris."

Iris is a wonderful person, and we are so excited that our son finally has found someone to settle down with. The problem is that Iris calls us "Mom and Dad," and our daughter does not like this.

She believes Iris is not entitled to call us by those titles because she is not family. Jan says Iris is being disrespectful.

Jan becomes enraged whenever we are together and she hears Iris refer to us as Mom and Dad. After one of those visits, Jan is on the phone the next day, ranting and raving about Iris. Ben thinks his sister is jealous and spoiled.

My husband and I are very flattered that our future daughter-in-law feels comfortable enough to call us "Mom and Dad," and we don't mind it one bit. In fact, we actually like it, but we worry that you are not being supportive of Jan if we let it continue.

This past holiday season was a

nightmare because of Jan's sensitivity, and we don't know how to handle this without hurting anyone's feelings. My sister thinks if we side with Jan, we will alienate Iris and possibly Ben, without really helping our daughter. Says Jan needs to grow up.

Any suggestions? We really need your advice.

Annie's Mailbox



A Son-to-Be Mom-in-Law

Dear Mom: I want to agree with your sister. Jan sounds jealous and insecure, and you need to make it quite clear that she does not get to set the rules in your relationships. She may not like it, but being "supportive" does not mean caving in.

Since you like being called "Mom and Dad," and Iris is eager to do it, let her. She soon will be a member of the family and should be treated as a daughter. This will undoubtedly make Jan uneasy. She's been queen of the roost for 34 years. But try to reassure her of your love and convince her that she's not losing a brother, she is gaining a sister — and someone who could turn out to be a best friend as well, if she will allow it.

Dear Abby: Even as a young girl, I have always loved horses. I have recently taken on the joyful responsibility of leasing a friend's horse, to help out with expenses, and also to learn what it would be like to actually own my own horse.

It has been only three months, and I have spent three times the amount of money that my "friend" has, and have done all of the labor to boot. By "labor," I mean cleaning horses, mucking out the stalls, cleaning water buckets and feed bins, cleaning the office, and even picking up her daughter and bringing her to and from the barn.

My question is, how do people like my "friend" continue to look themselves in the eye after taking advantage of an honest, sincere sucker?

— Taken For a Ride in Chesapeake

Dear Taken For a Ride: Three months is a pretty long ride. A more pertinent question would be, Why have you allowed it to continue? My advice is to walk away from all the things you have learned from this experience, and in the future, resist the urge to be so "helpful." Truly-hello.

Letters for this column — with your name and phone number — should be sent to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045. Readers can write to Abby on the Internet at <http://www.usps.com/dearabby>. Universal Press Syndicate

Dear Annie: I am a very nervous passenger when I travel in an automobile, and I do not like to drive. My husband is a very good driver and has not had an accident. However, that does not make it any easier for me.

As I get older, it is getting worse. I am apprehensive from the time we get into the driveway until we return home. My husband has adjusted his driving to make me more comfortable, but it makes no difference. Listening to music over headphones doesn't help, and reading makes me carsick. I'd rather not take anything to make me sleep the entire time. Any suggestions?

— Doomed to Stay in the House

Dear Doomed: It sounds as if you have an anxiety disorder, and without treatment, you could get worse. Treatment involves therapy, medication (that won't knock you out), or a combination of the two. For information, contact Anxiety Disorders Association of America (www.adaa.org), 8730 Georgia Avenue, Suite 600, Silver Spring, Md., 20910.

Annie's Mailbox is written by Kathy Mitchell and Marcy Sugar, longtime editors of the *Dear Abby* columns. Please e-mail your questions to annie@mail.com, or write to Annie's Mailbox, c/o Creators Syndicate, 5777 W. Century Blvd., Suite 700, Los Angeles, CA 90045.

Creators Syndicate

RELIGION

Survival training keeps chaplains ready

BY CHRISTIAN DAVENPORT
The Washington Post

It's been a long time since anyone told Maj. Clark Carr to keep his head down, watch out for snipers and to move, move, move! Then again, Carr wears a cross on his camouflage helmet, and as an Army chaplain, he is a non-combatant, forbidden to carry a weapon. But if Carr is deployed to Iraq, where even chaplains can suddenly find themselves in the heat of battle, he knows he will need to bring with him sharper survival skills.

That's why he and five other Maryland National Guard chaplains went through a sort of mini-boot camp last week at an Army installation outside Baltimore. They ducked and covered from imaginary enemy fire.

They hit the dirt and ran more than many of them had in a while. And they did it over and over again Thursday as a master sergeant pounded home to them that Iraqi insurgents may not distinguish between men of the cloth and men of arms.

"It hones the skills," said Carr,

Course offers blunt reminder that rebels in Iraq will not distinguish men of cloth

in civilian life a pastor at Grace United Methodist Church in Hagerstown, Md., as he wiped sweat from his forehead. "And keeps us aware of the environment the soldiers are facing."

The idea for the training came from a chaplain stationed in Iraq who told his stateside brethren that this war was like nothing he had ever seen, and that the chaplains needed to be better prepared for it, said Col. William Sean Lee, senior chaplain of the Maryland National Guard.

"We don't want to be a liability," said Lee, of Bel Air. "We want to be able to keep ourselves safe."

When entering the service, chaplains go through a 12-week Chaplain Officer Basic Course, which teaches them most everything about soldiering, from marching to crawling under barbed wire — except how to handle a weapon. Chaplains are pro-

hibited by Army regulations from bearing arms.

Many of the Maryland National Guard chaplains said that in the years since basic training, they've become more accustomed to handling homies than survival skills — which also has left them less physically fit than the average soldier. And though they're prepared to counsel those coming off the battlefield, they weren't ready to find themselves on it.

"These soldiers are perishable," said Maj. W. Ray Williams, a chaplain from Glen Burnie. "You don't use them, you lose them."

So far, only one chaplain has been seriously wounded, according to the Army Chief of Chaplains office. Timothy Vakoc, a Roman Catholic priest from Minnesota, was injured when a bomb blew up next to his Humvee last May as he was returning from presiding over Mass for soldiers in Mosul.

His injury was a reminder that this is a war without front lines, Lee said. Mortar shells rain down without warning. Hidden snipers take potshots. A peaceful mission can suddenly turn deadly.

That's exactly the message Master Sgt. Wayne Henderson tried to get across as he lectured the chaplains last week.

"Over there, it can go south at any time," he said.

Chaplains aren't completely without protection in war zones. They are accompanied at all times by assistants, armed soldiers who act as bodyguards — or, as Williams put it, "the hammer of God."

During training, the assistants practiced keeping the chaplains in tow as they ran an obstacle course designed to simulate an urban battlefield.

Assistants, whose sole responsibility is to protect the chaplains,

should always be looking ahead, he said, their weapons pointed forward. During an escape, Henderson counseled, chaplains should essentially run backwards, keeping an eye on the periphery.

When it was Chaplain Ronald Martin-Minnich's turn to charge through the course last week, he held on tightly to his assistant, a staff sergeant, who told him: "We'll run to the car, staying low. Okay, let's go!"

After they sprinted the 20 yards and crouched behind the car, the staff sergeant chastised his charge: "You've got to get down, sir."

Then they were off again.

Henderson paced the course, critiquing the pairs' technique, telling them to move faster and stay lower, exhorting them to stay alert for snipers in the shadows.

In between drills, he dispensed rapid-fire advice: Never sleep during a convey. Keep a safe distance from anyone suspicious. Stay close to your assistant.

For Carr the training was a reminder that in addition to blessing the dead and leading troops in prayer, he'll need to know what to do when the bullets start flying.

Year's best music comes to front with Grammys, Doves

BY BRIAN BOWERS
Stars and Stripes

Selecting the best music of the year can produce interesting — and confusing — results.

Looking over last weekend's Grammy Award winners and the recent nominations for the Gospel Music Association's Dove awards, we learn the following:

One song can make a big difference. Evidence: Michael W. Smith.

Smith's garnered eight Dove nominations based primarily on "Healing Rain," a tremendous song about God's healing gifts. However, the CD "Healing Rain" has been criticized as a throwback to Smith's work in the 1980s. By the way, his work was ignored by the Grammy folks.

Oldies can be goodies. Evidence: Switchfoot.

The rock group received five Dove nominations and frontman Jonathan Foreman received another two, primarily for work on the exceptional disc "Beautiful Let-down." The disc made a big impact on the mainstream market with several hit singles. The group was released in 2004. I guess we can overlook the fact that Switchfoot told home three Doves last year — for work on the same CD.

Newcomers are OK. Evidence: Casting Crowns.

Rockers Casting Crowns and their frontman Mark Hall could take home 10 Doves. However, they aren't the only unfamiliar names on the list of Dove nominees. Singer Bethany Dillon is vying for Female Vocalist of the Year and rock group Day of Fire, Barlow Girl and Hawk Nelson received nominations in hotly contested categories.

Hip-hop's here. Evidence: "Welcome To Diverse City," by tobyMac, and the compilation disc "Holy Hip Hop: Taking The Gospel To The Streets."

Both discs were nominated for the Grammy for Best Rock Gospel Album. They



AP photos

Above: Members of Third Day accept the award for best rock gospel album "Wire" at the 47th annual Grammy Awards last weekend. Right: Jeremy Camp performs during the Gospel Music Association Awards show last year in Nashville, Tenn. Camp won awards for Male Vocalist and New Artist of the Year. He's up for three more Dove awards in 2005, including Male Vocalist of the Year on the heels of his third album, "Restored."

didn't win, but they were there. However, it does irk me that the Grammy folks nominated a compilation disc instead of a specific act, such as Grits, which gave us the strong "Dichotomy A" and quickly followed with "Dichotomy B."

For the record, the Grammy for Best Pop/Contemporary Gospel Album went to Steven Curtis Chapman's "All Things New" and the award for Best Rock Gospel Album went to "Wire," by Third Day. Both were solid choices.

The Dove Awards ceremony will be held April 13 in Nashville, Tenn.

Disc tip

A year after receiving the Dove for Best New Artist, Jeremy Camp can consider

himself established.

On the heels of the release of his third CD, "Restored," Camp has been nominated for three Doves, including Male Vocalist of the Year, and has just been named Favorite Artist and Favorite Male Artist by readers of CCM magazine.

Camp's new disc is aptly titled, reflecting not only a spiritual journey of restoration but also his own life story since the release of his debut disc, "Stay." Camp's reputation for insightful, hard-hitting songs was built on "Stay," which was heavily influenced by the death of his first wife from cancer. Since his debut, he has married Adrienne Liesching, the former lead singer of the Benjamin Gate, and become a father.

The new disc is filled with praise and a

feeling of peace. It opens with the title track, a rocker featuring Camp's throaty vocals describing the healing of a broken soul. Camp offers a few other assertive tracks, such as "Play Down My Pride," but most of the disc consists of more melodic and contemplative songs. Many of the tracks — "Take You Back" and "Even When" — examine God's willingness to reconcile with those who had rejected him or made big mistakes.

Overall, "Restored" offers a different and deeper look at life and at Jeremy Camp. It's a view well worth taking in.

On the Web: www.jeremycamp.com

Today's Praise is a roundup of news and reviews from the contemporary Christian music industry. It appears on the Religion page.

E-mail Brian Bowers: bowers@stripes.com

Java costs in jail

MI LANSING — Inmates in Michigan's prisons will have to pay for their own caffeine fix next month.

In an effort to save \$250,000 this year, state officials are cutting off the supply of free coffee to inmates at state prisons and people in boot camps and correctional centers.

Corrections Department spokesman Russ Marlan said inmates can still buy instant coffee at prison stores, but he didn't know how much they charge. The cost-saving effort begins after March 1.

"We're looking at everything that can reduce costs without jeopardizing public safety," Marlan said Monday. "There is no nutritional value to coffee."

Coach's suicide warning

CO DENVER — A girls basketball coach apparently told family members just hours before his jailhouse suicide that he was planning to harm himself, but corrections staff never were alerted.

In a letter sent to the Douglas County Sheriff's Office, District Attorney Carol Chambers said family members presumably didn't think coach Rick Lopez would follow through on his threats.

Lopez was being held on 55 felony counts of sexually assaulting three of his female basketball players, two of whom allege they were younger than 15 when they first had intimate relations with the coach.

Grounded for ventilator

FL ST. PETERSBURG — The trip began like perhaps 20 others that Barrett said he had flown on US Airways.

Barrett and his nurse checked in three hours early at Tampa International Airport. A quadriplegic, Barrett told ticket agents he was traveling with a ventilator, he says, and they put a sticker on his shirt to make sure he was seated ahead of the crowd.

But before his flight left the gate Saturday, airline personnel said Barrett had to be carried off the plane. The airline decided that because his ventilator was a life-support device, it was too risky for him to fly.

This week, Florida Attorney General Charlie Crist wrote US Airways chief executive Bruce LaRocca that federal law bans airlines from refusing to transport people with disabilities. The airline said it employs followed procedures developed to comply with the Air Carrier Access Act.

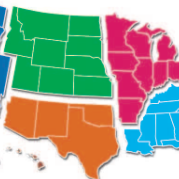
Barrett was on his way to Cleveland for surgery to let him breathe on his own.

Grisly death

MN ST. PAUL, Minn. — A man accused of killing his long-time girlfriend with a claw hammer during an argument in their apartment was charged with intentional second-degree murder.

Clarence J. Dunn Sr., 49, called 911 Tuesday morning and reported that he had killed 42-year-old Cassandra Jane Koochek by hitting her in the head with a hammer, according to a criminal complaint.

Police who responded to the woman's apartment found Koochek lying on a bed with a blanket and pillow over her head. A



AMERICAN ROUNDUP

plastic bag also had been placed over her head.

Dunn was arrested and taken to a hospital where he was treated for self-inflicted cuts to his wrists.

Guy of eye gouging

CA A jury has convicted a San Francisco man of aggravated mayhem, torture and assault for gouging out his girlfriend's left eye.

The case gained notoriety when a police officer was killed in a car crash while trying to catch the defendant, Monte Hane, 32.

A jury found Hane guilty of beating Margie Holmes with a radio and a video recorder, then hacking at her back and thigh with a cleaver before ripping her eye from its socket on June 11, 2002. Hane's defense was that he could not remember the incident because he had been on a drug binge.

Yale women's march

CT NEW HAVEN — More than 100 Yale University graduate students marched to the president's office Thursday to protest what they said is inequitable treatment of women at the Ivy League university.

Hane's defense was that he could not remember the incident because he had been on a drug binge. The protesters also criticized President Richard Levin for not joining the presidents of Stanford, Princeton and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in denounc-



Squirrely situation
Two dogs stalk a squirrel along a street in Great Falls, Mont.

ing comments made last month by Harvard President Larry Summers. Summers said biological differences may help explain why more men than women excel in science, but has since apologized several times.

Weight bill dropped

GA ATLANTA — A Georgia lawmaker who sponsored a bill that would have required public schools to weigh students and list their body mass indices on their report cards says she's dropping the idea.

Rep. Stephanie Stuckey Benfield, D-Atlanta, said calls and e-mails to her office were running heavily against the proposal.

Benfield said she still hopes to do something to help with childhood obesity, "but not with this bill."

Among other things, critics said the bill would harm students' self-esteem. "That was certainly never my intent, but I'm sensitive to that," Benfield said.

Samurai sword slashing

TX ARLINGTON — A 16-year-old who slashed a classmate in the face with a samurai sword had been on campus more than an hour searching for several other students, police said.

A Lamar High School office worker noticed the freshman walking into the school about 6:50 a.m. Monday carrying an 18-inch sword in each hand. She called security guards on a radio and then dialed 911.

Shortly after the assault in a hallway, school security guards tackled the teen. Police arrived about a minute after the 911 call, according to police records.

The 14-year-old victim, whose name was not released, was treated at a hospital for a 2½-inch cut on his chin, police said. The suspect, whose name was not released, is being held on suspicion of attempted murder at Tarrant County's juvenile detention center. Police said they don't know a motive. The teen refused to talk with detectives after he appeared before a judge Monday morning.

Protester suit thrown out

NH CONCORD — A federal judge has thrown out the case of a Bedford man who was threatened with arrest when he dressed as a terrorist outside a polling place last fall.

On Election Day, Joseph Galibois showed up at the polls wearing a black ski mask and olive-green ammunition holders and carrying a plastic squirt gun resembling an assault rifle and a John Kerry campaign sign.

By dressing as a terrorist campaigning for Kerry, Galibois hoped to convince voters that President Bush's anti-terrorism policies were superior to the Democrats' proposals.

After several hours, police asked him to leave or face arrest, saying he was alarming voters and causing traffic problems.

Galibois later sued Nashua police Sgt. John Fisher for violating his free-speech rights by ending his protest. His lawsuit sought \$1 per week until the 2008 presidential election.

Galibois then sued in federal court, where a judge threw out the case Tuesday for jurisdictional reasons.



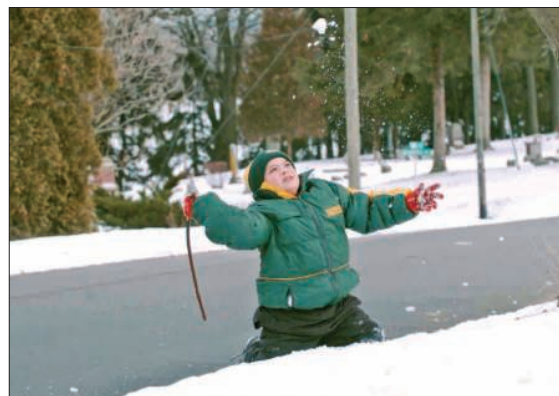
Big group hug

Spc. Edward Chadburn hugs his kids upon his return to family and friends in Salt Lake City. The 116th Engineering unit spent the last year serving in Iraq.



Fishy activity

Terry Price fishes for perch along the banks of Bayou Petit outside Houma, La.



Easily entertained

Kody Priesgen, 8, concentrates as he tries to hit snow chunks with a stick while playing outside after school in Mayville, WI.



High-flying ride

Jimmy Larson, a member of the Ansoil Snowmobile Racing team, takes a jump on a practice track in Aurora, Minn.



Ferocious history

Carl Jara, an exhibit artisan/technician at the Cleveland Museum of Natural History, puts the finishing touches around the velociraptor display.



Pit stop

A flock of Canada geese rest at the Mabaska Wildlife Area west of Ames, near Boone county, Iowa.

Holy cheese?!

CA SAN FRANCISCO — The possibly miraculous grilled-cheese sandwich arrived in San Francisco this week, accompanied by bodyguards.

It will only be in the city through the weekend; the sandwich has prior commitments and cannot stay long.

"We're excited to have it," said Ian Ilias, manager of the Ripley's Believe It or Not Museum, which is hosting the sandwich during its visit.

The sandwich is said to bear the image of the Virgin Mary in its grill marks. It was cooked 10 years ago by a Florida woman, who sold it in November to an Internet casino for \$28,000. The casino took the sandwich on a nationwide tour, out of the goodness of its heart.

"People need to find spirituality these days," said Eric Amgar, the sandwich's advance man. "There's nothing wrong with helping them to do that."

Cop becomes suspect

MINN ST. PAUL — A Minneapolis police officer was jailed this week on suspicion of kidnapping and raping a woman he met at a health club while he was off duty.

David M. Hansen, 28, was arrested Wednesday evening at his home in St. Paul and is being held without bail.

Minneapolis Police Chief Bill McManus placed Hansen, who has been on the force about two years, on paid administrative leave once he learned of the allegations.

Mayo Clinic donation

AZ SCOTTSDALE — A local man whose wife died of cancer donated \$5 million to the Mayo Clinic to establish an endowment for research on the disease.

Officials said the gift from Mark Mazzarino, 89, was the largest ever earmarked for research at Mayo Clinic Scottsdale. The former oil company owner's wife, Shirley, died of cancer 45 years ago.

Laser-related arrest

WA LAKEWOOD — King County deputies arrested a 25-year-old man for allegedly shining a laser on jetliners arriving or leaving Seattle-Tacoma International Airport.

The intense light caused no injury or damage. The man, who wasn't named pending possible indictment, could face nine felony charges, officials said.

The FBI and Federal Aviation Administration participated in the investigation.

Gambino phone bust

NY NEW YORK — Six reputed members of the Gambino crime family pleaded guilty to ringing up more than \$650 million in unauthorized charges on telephone customers' credit cards and phone bills.

The six, led by alleged Gambino captain Salvatore Locascio, pleaded guilty Monday before their trial was to begin on charges including money laundering and conspiracy to commit mail fraud.

They face sentences ranging from less than two years to 10 years in prison and they have agreed to forfeit millions of dollars

in proceeds from the scheme.

Women awarded \$1M

FL WEST PALM BEACH — Two women who were secretly videotaped under their desks at work were awarded \$1 million each in a lawsuit against their former employer.

A jury found Tuesday that Patti Kidder and Katherine Dean sold their emotional trauma when Owen Financial Corp. managers and co-workers teased them about the video footage.

The women claimed they were harassed after a co-worker admitted in 1999 that he put a camera under their desks and sold the video to pornographic Web sites. Kidder said she was called "Patti porn star" and propositioned by a manager.

Man survives crash

CO MONTROSE — A man survived the crash of a single-engine plane, then spent more than 24 hours stranded in rugged terrain before rescuers found him.

The pilot wasn't injured when the single-engine Cessna 172 crashed Wednesday afternoon in powdery snow that was about 8 feet deep, said Civil Air Patrol volunteer Mark Young, who is also the Montrose County coroner.

The 58-year-old man, who was the only person onboard, survived freezing temperatures at the 10,000-foot altitude by digging a snow cave. He was hungry and dehydrated when rescuers found him Thursday evening.

Coyote attacks woman

MA BARNSTABLE — A Cape Cod woman who was bitten on her left hand is believed to be the first person ever attacked by a rabid coyote in Massachusetts, according to state wildlife officials.

Cindy Parker-Kelley was attacked by a 45-pound female coyote in her back yard Thursday when she went to check on her Norwegian elkhound, Dakota. Her husband, David Kelley, beat the coyote with a piece of lumber, and police later killed it.

The state's only other recorded attack on a human by a coyote also occurred on Cape Cod. A coyote snatched a 3-year-old boy from a swing set in Sandwich in 1998, but his mother intervened and the boy was not badly injured. It's unknown if that coyote had rabies.

Animal abuser sentenced

VA MANASSAS — A woman convicted of animal cruelty after an emaciated pit bull was discovered eating the carcass of another dog in her backyard was sentenced Monday to two days in jail.

Karen Lee Morris, 37, also was barred from ever possessing another companion animal in Virginia as part of a related civil case.

City officials had sought a 10-day jail sentence.

Animal control officers found three pit bulls in the tiny backyard of Morris' townhouse in December, while she was away on a family trip. They saw a thin pit bull cannibalizing the carcass of another pit bull.

Judge Craig Johnston said the sentence was "the only way I can ensure that this doesn't happen again."

Stories and photos from wire services

AFRTS Television Schedule

Updated sports listings are available on the first Scoreboard page in the sports section or AFN's Web site at <http://myafn.dodmedia.osd.mil/>

SUNDAY, FEBRUARY 20, 2005

(AFN-FAMILY)	(AFN-MOVIE)	(AFN-EUROPE)	(AFN-KOREA)	(AFN-NEWS)	(AFN-SPORTS)	(SPECTRUM)	(AFN-PACIFIC)
9:00 House of Mouse	(8:58) Movie *** "Miss Congeniality" (2000) Comedy Sandra Bullock, Michael Keaton, Jamie Renne Smith, Benjamin Bratt	Movie *** "MVP: Most Valuable Primate" (2000) Kevin Zegers, Jamie Renne Smith, Benjamin Bratt	Headline News	Headline News	Sports	Latin Lifestyles	Andromeda
9:30 Animaniacs			Headline News	The Chris Matthews Show		Urban Style	Headline News
10:00 Ed, Edd n Eddy			Headline News	News/Current Affairs		Fantasy Camp	Headline News
10:30 Fillmore (E)			Headline News	News/Current Affairs		Rock on the Road	Headline News
10:50 Out There	Movie *** "National Lampoon's Animal House" (1978) Comedy John Belushi, Tim Matheson, Donald Sutherland	Headline News	Headline News	Big Story Weekly Edition With Rita Crookley		Radical Sabbatical	Judging Amy "The Long Goodbye"
11:30 Planet's Funniest Animals			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Animal Festivals	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
12:00 NBA Inside Stuff (E)			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	The Suite Orman Show	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
12:30 Happy Days	Movie *** "Ghost Dog" (1999) Comedy Bill Cobbs, Kimberly Parker, Dennis Nicholas	Sports	Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
13:00 Movie *** "Ghost Dog" (1999) Comedy Bill Cobbs, Kimberly Parker, Dennis Nicholas			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
13:30 Movie *** "Ghost Dog" (1999) Comedy Bill Cobbs, Kimberly Parker, Dennis Nicholas			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
14:00 Movie *** "Johnny Tunes" (1999) Drama Gordon Baker, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
14:30 Movie *** "Johnny Tunes" (1999) Drama Gordon Baker, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
15:00 Movie *** "Johnny Tunes" (1999) Drama Gordon Baker, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
15:30 Movie *** "Johnny Tunes" (1999) Drama Gordon Baker, Cary-Hiroyuki Tagawa			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
16:00 Doug "Doug's Big Admission"			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
16:30 The Wild Thornberrys			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
17:00 The Fairly OddParents			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
17:30 Rugrats			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
18:00 Nigel Marvin's Secrets "Ancient" Massive serpent			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
18:30 America's Funniest Home Videos			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
19:30 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
20:30 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
21:00 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
21:30 The Cooby Show			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
22:00 Home Improvement			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
22:30 Youched by an Angel "The Occipant"			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
23:00 Youched by an Angel "The Occipant"			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams
23:30 Youched by an Angel "The Occipant"			Headline News	20/20	SportsCenter	Myth Busters "Slinkin' Car"	Movie *** "The Notebook" (2004) Romance Ryan Reynolds, Rachel McAdams

MONDAY, FEBRUARY 21, 2005

00:00 The Fairly OddParents	(11:58) Movie *** "Conan the Barbarian" (1982)	College Basketball Teams to Be Announced (Live)	Play With Me Sesame	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
0:30 Rugrats	(12:51) Movie *** "Saturday Night Fever" (1977) Drama John Travolta, Karen Lynn Gorney, Donna Pescow	NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
1:30 America's Funniest Home Videos		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
2:00 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
2:30 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
3:00 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
3:30 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
4:00 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
4:30 Dinotopia (Part 1 of 3)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
5:00 Sesame Street (E)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
5:30 Barney & Friends (E)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
6:00 Barney & Friends (E)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
6:30 Barney & Friends (E)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
7:00 Dragon Tales (E)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
7:30 Bob the Builder		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
8:00 Elmo's Magic Cookbook		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
8:30 Movie *** "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) Voices of Megan Hilty		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
9:00 Movie *** "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) Voices of Megan Hilty		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
9:30 Movie *** "Jimmy Neutron: Boy Genius" (2001) Voices of Megan Hilty		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
10:00 Dave the Barbarian		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
11:00 Dave the Barbarian		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
11:30 Dave the Barbarian		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
12:00 Dave the Barbarian		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
12:30 Dave the Barbarian		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
13:00 Dave the Barbarian		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
13:30 Movie *** "Brink" (1998) Adventure Erik von Detten, Christina Vidal, Patrick Davis		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
14:00 Movie *** "Brink" (1998) Adventure Erik von Detten, Christina Vidal, Patrick Davis		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
14:30 Movie *** "Brink" (1998) Adventure Erik von Detten, Christina Vidal, Patrick Davis		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
15:00 Funniest Home Videos		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
15:30 Full House (Part 1 of 2)		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
16:00 Pokemon		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
16:30 Yo-Gi-Oh! Alternates		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
17:00 Yo-Gi-Oh! Alternates		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
17:30 The Wild Thornberrys		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
18:00 The Fairly OddParents		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
18:30 Rugrats		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
19:00 Lizzie McGuire		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
19:30 Lizzie McGuire		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
20:00 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
20:30 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
21:00 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
21:30 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
22:00 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
22:30 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
23:00 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame
23:30 Smallville "Red"		NBA Basketball All-Star Game - (Same Day Center in Denver, (Live))	Little Bill	People in the News	SportsCenter	Austin City Limits "Joan Jo-Jo"	Play With Me Sesame

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MovieWeb.com

Robert De Niro, shown with Blythe Danner in the comedy movie "Meet the Fockers," needs a steady income just like everyone else.

Q Why does Robert De Niro take roles that are beneath him in films like "Analyze This," "Meet the Parents" and "Meet the Fockers"? And what's with that American Express ad? — Dennis McCarthy, Boston, Mass.

A Those roles are not "beneath him." That's what actors do: take roles. What's more, De Niro, 61 — rarely a big box-office draw — often must finance his own projects. He also has to support five children by three mothers. His production company made a bundle on the films you cited. As for the commercial (by Martin Scorsese), American Express is the major sponsor of De Niro's Tribeca Film Festival.

Q Woody Allen hasn't had a hit since "Hannah and Her Sisters" back in 1989. Why do studios still greenlight his movies? — Roger Benabe, Groton, Conn.

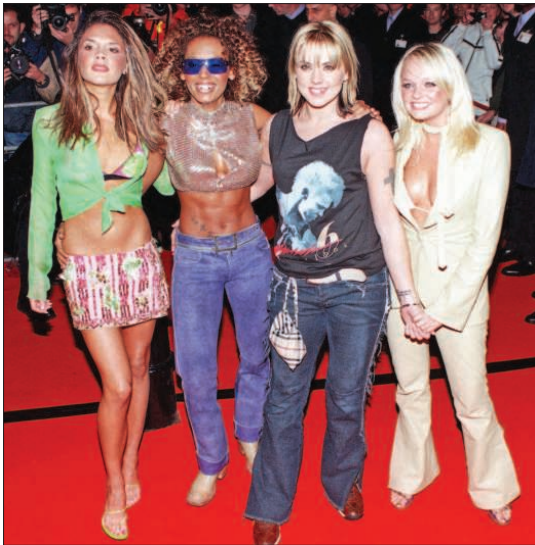
A Because sometimes — but not often — Hollywood puts prestige above greed. Woody, 69, is still considered one of his generation's great directors, despite his commercial setbacks and moral lapse. (Many filmmakers were turned off by his marriage to "stepdaughter" Soon-Yi, now 34.) We'll see if Will Ferrell can end Woody's cold spell with "Melinda and Melinda," opening next month.

Q Your recent answer to a Medal of Honor question made it sound like the last man to perform actions worthy of the medal did so in 1965. Is that true? — Steve Ziomek, Medford, N.J.

A No — and we didn't mean to imply that in our answer. Several Medals of Honor were given for later service in Vietnam. Master Sgt. Gary Gordon and SFC Randall Shughart earned posthumous medals for their actions in Somalia. And this month, it was reported that SFC Paul R. Smith, killed in action in 2003, would be honored for his heroism in Iraq.

Q You singled out Paul Newman and Joanne Woodward as their generation's most famous acting couple. But what about Ruby Dee and the late Ossie Davis? — Jessica Bailey, San Diego, Calif.

A Davis — who died this month at 87 — and Dee, 80, deserve a place in the pantheon of legendary acting couples alongside Alfred Lunt and Lynn Fontanne, Hume Cronyn and Jessica Tandy, and Newman and Woodward. Married 56 years, they collaborated on 25 TV shows, 12 plays and six films.



AP

The Spice Girls, minus Geri Halliwell, cluster in London in 2000. Baby Spice, far right — now known as Emma — has a solo album out next month.



KRT

Johnny Depp no longer owns the nightclub where his good buddy River Phoenix died in 1993.

Q Does Johnny Depp still own The Viper Room, where his best pal River Phoenix died in 1993 from a drug overdose? — Tawni Benson, Davenport, Iowa

A No. Anthony Fox, his partner in the infamous Hollywood nightclub, filed suit against Depp in 2000, seeking millions in allegedly missing profits. Before the suit could be settled, Fox himself went missing. He hasn't been heard from since December 2001. Last fall, as part of a legal settlement, Depp, 41, handed ownership to Fox's daughter Amanda, 19, who reportedly plans to sell the hot spot.

Q What has happened to Baby Spice? Does she ever see her former Spice Girl bandmates? — Vince K., Riverdale, N.Y.

A "I'm still in close contact with the other girls," Emma (Baby Spice) Bunton, 29, tells us. "We got together recently for the christening of Victoria's two children" [by hubby David Beckham]. The youngest Spice — now known professionally as Emma — is in the U.S. to promote her solo CD, "Free Me," which went gold in England.

Q Late last year, Vincent D'Onofrio collapsed on the set of "Law & Order: Criminal Intent." Has he recovered? — Jackie Doersch, Broomall, Pa.

A D'Onofrio, 45, is fine and back at work on the NBC show. He'd been pulling double duty: working "Criminal Intent's" long hours, then editing his own film project. The strain caught up with the actor, and he collapsed from exhaustion.

Q I recently saw an old Joan Jett video, "Go Home," on TV. It's dedicated to a murder victim. What's the story? — Chuck T., Smithville, Tex.

A "Go Home" — from Jett's '94 CD "Pure and Simple" — is an homage to Mia Zapata, lead singer of The Gits, a popular Seattle punk band. Zapata was murdered in 1993 at 27. Last year, DNA technology led to the conviction of Jesus Mezkida, a drifter. Incidentally, Jett, 44, joined the band on a 1995 CD titled "Evil Stig" ("Gits Live" spelled backwards).

Q A recent "West Wing" showed Allison Janney towering over Kristin Chenoweth. How tall is each? — Dee Bruce, Bradenton, Fla.

A Janney, 44, is 6 feet; Chenoweth, 36, is just 4 feet 11. That scene was a perfect setup for Janney's gibe about their height difference: "Are we from the same species?"

YOUR MONEY



Tresia Eaves was hired as a Sentinel Corporation project manager. As a former Air Force captain with 13 years of software development experience, she offered Sentinel technical and management skills, as well as experience dealing with bureaucracy.

Special skills give applicants a leg up on jobs

BY JANE HILL

The Dallas Morning News

Client investment bank seeks hands-on developer. Must have five to 10 years technical experience, experience working in Microsoft development environment, excellent communication skills, financial knowledge a plus. Treasury business knowledge desirable.

When ads appear on job boards, thousands of resumes highlighting the required technical skills land on the desk of the hiring manager.

But any developer who also has specialized industry knowledge will surely rise to the top of the pile.

Paul Rector, recruiting director at NewData Strategies, said specialized knowledge is desirable in health care, banking and shipping and distribution. Hiring managers in those industries often request information technology candidates who can demonstrate that they understand the business.

"Managers need someone who has been through the hoops because it greatly reduces the learning curve," he said.

Most applicants who have the required technical skills could adequately handle the work while picking up the vocabulary particular to the industry or business fundamentals on the job, he said. The hiring manager, though, "doesn't have the luxury of time."

Dan Ortman developed his specialization in technology support working on the trading floors in lower Manhattan for Goldman Sachs Group Inc. After 16 years with the investment company and

two cross-country relocations, his job was eliminated two years ago. He lost his job but not his enthusiasm for the industry.

"I've got an affinity for it," he said.

Now a consultant on a long-term contract in Dallas, Ortman said his understanding of the industry probably helped him land his dream job as a technology manager for one of Goldman Sachs' biggest competitors.

In an employer's market, industry specialization may not matter, Ortman said.

"But in an employer's market, employers can ask for 12 out of 10 requirements and they can get it. In days gone by, if you had seven out of 10, you were hired."

Tresia Eaves manages 24 software developers who speak the language of deductions and exceptions. They update the software that Internal Revenue Service agents rely upon in the field. As division director for Sentinel Corp., a contractor for the IRS, she manages the project, including software development.

Eaves was hired not for her tax expertise but because she knows how government agencies work.

As a former Air Force captain with 13 years of software development experience, she offered Sentinel her technical and management skills combined with experience dealing with bureaucracy. Appreciating what IRS field agents do is particularly helpful in meetings, Eaves said.

"There's a feeling of comfort you give the customer when you use their vocabulary and can talk about the goals of the organization," she said.

Two Internet music stores with two different pitches

Napster builds library; iTunes sells the songs

BY JOHN M. MORAN

The Hartford (R.I.) Courant

While the recent Super Bowl was under way, two hard-nosed opponents were squaring off in high-profile commercials targeting roughly the same audience.

On one side was Apple's iTunes digital music service, far and away the most popular place to buy songs over the Internet. Pay 99 cents for a song and then download it to your personal computer or iPod portable music device.

As it did last year, Apple is promoting iTunes by teaming up with Pepsi to give away thousands of free songs. Redeemable "coupons" are found beneath some Pepsi bottle caps. (You may remember the commercial showing people listening to music coming from inside their soda bottles.) Yet as the Super Bowl TV commercials also showed, iTunes is facing upstart competition from a reborn Napster, which is now a digital music service of its own. What makes the contest between iTunes and Napster truly fascinating isn't the commercials, but rather the different approaches to selling music online that they represent.

The model pursued by Apple's iTunes is familiar enough. You pay to download a song and, within certain limits on copying, you own it.

It's the online equivalent of buying a music CD at the mall. And thanks to Apple's runaway hit, the iPod portable music player, you can easily carry those songs around with you wherever you go.

But Napster takes a radically different approach that essentially says: Why buy a little music when you can rent much more of it instead? Consider that it costs about \$15 for 15 iTunes downloads. But that same \$15 would buy a month's worth of unlimited access to Napster's giant music collection. In short, for the cost of a single audio CD, Napster gives you access to thousands.

But unlike iTunes, you can't burn these songs to a CD, and they will play only as long as your Napster subscription remains active.



Samsung's Napster-branded player and the "Napster To Go" service offer digital music lovers the same kind of portability that has made the iPod a household word.

And with its "Napster To Go" service, Napster has managed to offer digital music lovers the same kind of portability that has made the iPod a household word.

The question now is whether consumers are ready to shift their way of thinking about how music is acquired and used.

The iTunes approach has more or less been around since grandpa fired up the old 78 rpm record player. You pay for the music and it's yours forever. People know that approach and, judging by historical music sales figures, they're comfortable with it.

But the vision promoted by Napster argues that if you really love music, you're better off leasing it. And there's some pretty compelling logic to support that view.

Figure it this way: Even if you

buy a new CD every month, in five years you will still only have a modest collection of 60 CDs. That's hardly enough to satisfy even casual listeners, much less hard-core music lovers.

For that same expenditure, Napster says, you could have one of the biggest music collections in the world. Thousands of titles by hundreds of artists, all just a mouse-click away.

Such a collection would cost tens of thousands of dollars to buy, putting it out of the reach of all but the most dedicated — and richest — music fans. At \$15 a month, it's affordable by almost anyone.

The buy-vs.-rent calculation only leans in favor of people who listen to a lot of different music. After all, if you're satisfied hearing the same handful of songs played over and over, month after month, you probably should just buy them and be done with it.

But music fanatics, families with diverse and changing musical tastes, and even people who just want a hassle-free variety might decide that renting music beats owning it after all.

YOUR MONEY

'Under table' wages don't pay for retirement

Q. A good friend of mine is quickly approaching retirement age but has always worked "under the table" as a housekeeper or nanny. She hasn't been able to save much over the years and she's getting a little too old to scrub floors or chase after toddlers. Is there any way she could qualify for Social Security benefits?

A. If she's married and her spouse has paid into Social Security for at least 10 years, she could claim a benefit based on his work record. If she's not married now but was married for at least 10 years to someone who paid into the system, she also could qualify.

Otherwise, she's pretty much out of luck. This is why workers — and household employers — should avoid under-the-table arrangements like the plague. The short-term savings on taxes have real and long-term implications on people's lives.

Q. The letter from the son who was supporting his family hit a nerve. My divorced mother makes a very decent living, but her expenses are such that she is always short on cash. Because my parents were not financially responsible over the years, my mom has no investments, savings or other "safety nets" to assist her, and she is generally not very good with money. My mom has no qualms about borrowing money from me, usually \$100 to

\$500, which she repays over several months. Now, though, she's asking me for a \$5,000 loan for further schooling. Until now, the loans so far haven't affected my husband and me negatively, aside from the interest we pay on the credit card balances we owe for her spending. But \$5,000 is a lot of money. Plus, I feel like she should have figured out how to be self-sufficient by now and I'm merely enabling her irresponsible behavior. Do you have any advice?

A. Instead of lending her more money, how about buying her a few hours with a financial planner who can teach her a bit about budgeting, saving and investing?

These obviously aren't lessons she's learned in her lifetime, and a neutral third party might help her grasp the importance of saving for her own future.

To pave the way, you might visit the planner first yourself. Then you can rave to your mom about how much you've learned and present the session as a gift to her.

The planner, by the way, will probably point out that these loans are affecting your family negatively. You shouldn't be carrying credit card balances at all, and certainly not for someone else's irresponsible spending. That includes \$5,000 for

schooling. If she's making a good living, she can save the money herself or get a student loan in her own name.

Q. I respectfully take issue with your recommendation not to ask a credit card company to lower an excessively high credit card limit. I have no quibble with your answer from the point of view of protecting your credit score, but have you considered the ever-present fraud implications? Carrying what may amount to tens of thousands of dollars of unnecessary credit leaves a consumer (and the card issuer) open for fraud. If her card number were misappropriated, the thieves would have a field day running up charges before they hit her limit.

Weston I speak from personal experience. Even though I guard my card like a hawk, my card number somehow made it to Italy last summer, resulting in a \$6,000 fraudulent charge. Had I watched my limit more closely, and asked for it to be lowered, the loss would have been much, much smaller. My inattentiveness cost Visa \$6,000, a cost it will surely pass along to its customer base one way or another.

A. Actually, Visa says fraud losses among its member banks have never been

lower. The credit card industry today uses sophisticated software to spot and halt suspicious transactions, which has greatly improved its ability to combat fraud.

Any credit card fraud, of course, can increase costs for merchants and lenders which could ultimately be passed on to borrowers. But it doesn't necessarily follow that consumers should take the risk of damaging their credit scores by asking lenders to lower their credit limits. Consumers don't usually reap a benefit from lower limits; victims of credit card fraud typically owe nothing as the result of these crimes, since most card issuers waive the \$50 fee that could be charged.

A better course might be to simply monitor your accounts more closely, which easily done by phone or online. A recent survey by Javelin Research found that victims of identity theft who monitored their accounts online detected the crime much faster and significantly limited the losses. The average loss for accounts monitored online was \$551, compared to \$4,543 when the victims waited for paper statements.

Liz Pulliam Weston is the author of "Your Credit Score: How to Fix, Improve and Protect the 3-Digit Number That Shapes Your Financial Future." Questions for Money Talk can be submitted to her at 3940 Laurel Canyon Blvd., No. 238, Studio City, CA 91604, or via her Web site, www.lizweston.com. She regrets that she cannot respond personally to inquiries.

THURSDAY'S MARKET SUMMARY

INDEXES						
52-wk High	Low	Index	Last	% Chg	YTD % Chg	52-wk High
10,658.07	9,708.40	Dow Jones Industrials	10,754.26	-0.24	+2.24	10,658.07
3,823.96	3,241.63	Dow Jones Transportation	3,694.19	-18.49	-51.1	+219.59
2,131.69	1,759.82	Dow Jones Utilities	2,061.34	-26.89	-1.25	+75.24
7,315.70	6,126.13	NVSE Composite	7,272.54	-34.22	+47	+31
1,505.26	1,150.74	Amex Index	1,497.77	+5	+86	+42
2,131.69	1,759.82	Nasdaq Composite	2,061.34	-26.89	-1.25	+75.24
1,217.90	1,060.72	S&P 500	1,200.75	-9.59	-79	+92
1,217.90	1,060.72	S&P MidCap	1,200.75	-9.59	-79	+92
656.11	515.90	Russell 2000	631.34	-7.71	-12.1	+34
12,024.36	10,268.52	DJ Wilshire 5000	11,841.36	-92.51	-18	+8.53

[illegible]

KEY DEFENSE STOCKS				
Name	DIV	PE	Last	YTD Chg %Chg
Alliant Technology	--	17	69.59	-26 +6.4

KEY MUTUAL FUNDS			
Name	NAV	Chg.	YTD %Ret
Fidelity Invest: Grolinc	37.62	-25	-1.4

Boeing	1,00	23	53.66	-26	+37	Agency Income: Oracle	28.70	-26	+42
Computer Sciences	-	15	46.25	-45	-18.0	Agency Income: United	28.70	-26	+42
Engineered Sup Sys	.07	22	59.93	-30	+1.2	Fidelity Spartan: Exldg	19.41	-56	-34
General Dynamics	1.44	17	105.90	-45	+1.2	Putnam Funds: A Grnk p	19.41	-16	+1
General Electric	.88	23	36.83	-19	-1.3	Fidelity Invest: Mgr	16.14	-07	-1
Halliburton	.50	-	41.79	-67	+6.5	Frank/Temp Frnk A: SMCop	33.78	-18	-1.3
Harris Corp	.48	28	64.90	-79	+5.0	AIM Investments: A Cona	22.50	-21	-1.3
Altiris Signal	.83	23	37.92	-57	+7.1	Fidelity Invest: USBI	11.16	-07	+1
Verizon Communications	.37	23	73.90	-57	+7.1	Fidelity Invest: Oversea	35.21	-07	+1

Lockheed Martin	1.01	21	59.30	+65	+6.8	Fidelity Advisor T: Group I	28.41	-23	+1.2
Northrup G	.52	18	53.11	-68	-1.9	Fidelity Advisor T: Group II	38.41	-21	+1.2
Raytheon	.80	41	38.46	+19	-1.0	Scudder Funds A: Growth	27.12	-27	+1.2
Rockwell Intl.	.66	23	59.90	-68	+20.9	Putnam Funds A: GBEqEY	8.46	-92	+1.2
Sequa Corp.	.36	36	59.16	-84	-2.9	AIG Investments A: Charta P	12.77	-19	+1.2
Texas Instruments	.10	24	25.48	-61	+3.5	AIG Investments A: Weinga P	12.83	-10	+1.0
Textron Inc.	1.40	30	76.55	-34	+3.7	Merrill Lynch I: BalCap	26.75	-14	+1.2
United Technologies	1.76	18	101.50	-135	-1.8	Scudder Funds S: Intl Fds	44.50	+96	+1.2
						Fidelity Advisor T: Oversea T	17.64	-83	+1.2

Lord Abbett A: DivGIA p	15.41	-29	-1.1
Scudder Funds S: Income S	13.07	—	—
Merrill Lynch L: USGovMktg	10.29	-81	+0.2
Scudder Funds S: Devel	19.73	-17	+1.1
Putnam Funds A: GIGIA px	13.04	—	-0.1

EXCHANGE RATES

Military rates	
Japanese yen (Feb. 22)	103.0
South Korean won (Feb. 19)	999.00
Euro costs (Feb. 21)	\$1,340.1
Dollar buys (Feb. x)	€0.7462
British pound (Feb. 21)	\$1.94
Commercial rates	
Bahrain (Dinar)	0.3770
British pound	\$1.8947
Canada (Dollar)	1.2316
Denmark (Krone)	5.7032

Egypt (Pounds)	£1 3667/0 7653	7819
Hong Kong (Dollar)		1.79
Hungary (Forint)		185.91
Iceland (Krona)		61.79
Israel (Shekel)		4.3592
Japan (Yen)		105.54
Kuwait (Dinar)		0.2919
Norway (Krone)		6.3478
Philippines (Peso)		64.69
Saudi Arabia (Rial)		3.7500
Singapore (Dollar)		1.6367
South Korea (Won)		5.9376
Switzerland (Franc)		1.1829
Taiwan (Baht)		38.54
Turkey (New Lira)		1.4045

(Military exchange rates are those available to customers at military banks in the country of origin.)

For Japan, South Korea, Germany, the Netherlands and the United Kingdom,

For nonlocal currency exchange rates (i.e., purchasing British pounds in Germany), check with your local military banking facility. Commercial rates are interbank rates provided for reference when buying currency. All figures are foreign currencies to one dollar, except for the British pound, which is represented in dollars-to-pound, and the euro, which is

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Discount rate	3.50

Federal funds market rate	2.50
3-month bill	2.60
30-year bond	4.65

Sources: The Associated Press, Bank of America

Cents and Sensibility
Money tip of the day
Consider using coupons

MarketWatch

NEW YORK—Clipping coupons just makes sense—even wealthy people do it.

Seventy-two percent of consumers with annual household incomes of at least \$125,000 said they clip coupons, according to a new survey by Visa. Nationwide, an estimated 65 percent of consumers use coupons.

For coupons for different brands, consider your brand loyalty before you buy. Do you always buy Brand X over Brand Y because X is cheaper? Or does X taste better? Remember, a coupon doesn't save you anything if you've bought a product you won't use.

Be wary when it comes to coupons for items you don't normally buy.

The National Council on Economic Education recommends that you clip coupons and sort them into three piles: brands of things your family typically pur-

Take advantage of sales and

coupons to stock up on items your family uses. If you know, for example, that you need to buy peanut butter every week because your children want pea-

<p>nut-butter-and-jelly sandwiches every day, it makes sense to buy multiple jars at the sale price.</p>	<p>money into a rainy-day fund to save up for something fun, or you could invest it.</p>
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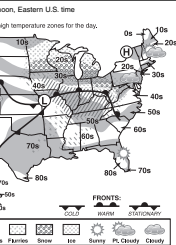
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Frankfurt - Antarctic

Frankfurt - Bouvet Island

Frankfurt - Christmas Island

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Frankfurt - Johnston Island

Frankfurt - Kingman Reef

Frankfurt - Line Island

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Martin becomes winningest IROC driver with 12th win

The Associated Press

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Mark Martin became the winningest driver in IROC history, moving past the late Dale Earnhardt and Al Unser Jr. by taking the season-opening race Friday night at Daytona International Speedway.

Martin earned his 12th International Race of Champions victory by passing fellow NASCAR Nextel Cup star Matt Kenseth on a restart with four laps remaining. Then Martin held off Martin Truex Jr. over the final laps and beat him to the finish line by a half-car length.

"The king of IROC won the race, and I'll finish second to him anytime," said Truex, the NASCAR Busch Series champion making his IROC debut.

Bobby Hamilton, NASCAR's truck series champion, was third.

Kenseth ended up fourth after leading 31 of the first 36 laps in the 40-lap event.

Racing roundup

Kenseth was in front when the race was halted for about 10 minutes after a multi-car accident that included IndyCar star Helio Castroneves, 19-time World of Outlaws champion Steve Kinser, Grand American Road Racing driver Scott Pruett and Champ Car's Sebastian Bourdais.

Martin started the melee when he ran into the back of Kenseth, causing the 2003 Cup champion to slow up and sparking a series of crashes.

Kinser ran into Pruett, who then spun into the wall and took Bourdais with him. Castroneves, second to Kenseth for much of the race, also was caught up in the mess.

Kenseth, the defending IROC champion, looked primed to win his third consecutive race. But World of Outlaws driver Danny Lasoski bumped him on the re-

start, forced him to wiggle and allowed Martin to drive by on the outside.

Martin held on from there to get the record.

Hamilton wins wild truck race

DAYTONA BEACH, Fla. — Bobby Hamilton was standing on pit road and Jimmy Spencer was celebrating in Victory Lane.

Then they switched positions. Hamilton was awarded a victory in the wreck-filled Florida Dodge Dealers 250 on Friday night at Daytona International Speedway after Spencer initially took the checkered flag and drove into the winner's circle.

It was the perfect ending for a frenzied race that included countless lead changes, several major crashes and two flipping trucks.

"That was pretty wild," Hamilton said.

Hamilton took the lead after a restart with one lap to go, but Spencer was back in front when an eight-truck wreck started be-

hind the leaders. However, before the caution flag came out, Hamilton moved back in front.

NASCAR officials quickly changed the result, but not after Spencer had made his way to Victory Lane. Spencer smiled and shook his head after he was told the news. He put his steering wheel back on, and crew members begrudgingly pushed his car back to the pits.

Hamilton, meanwhile, just clapped his hands in front of the scoring change. Within minutes, his team was in Victory Lane, reveling in the win in the season-opening race for NASCAR's truck series.

"It was almost a no-brainer," Hamilton said. "I pretty much knew it. I had confidence in what was going to happen."

The defending series champion picked up his ninth career truck victory and became the series' first driver to win from the last starting spot.

But his comeback was over-

shadowed by several major accidents, including two in the final laps.

Spencer took the lead with seven laps remaining. He moved to the front just as Dennis Setzer bumped Chad Chaffin and sent him sliding into the infield. Chaffin flipped once and landed upright.

Setzer, Terry Cook and Johnny Benson also were involved, but none of them was injured.

Hamilton overtook Spencer after the restart, and as it turned out, he held on for the victory.

The frantic finish capped a chaotic night.

Pole-sitter Kerry Earnhardt and several other top contenders were knocked out midway through the 100-lap race.

Earnhardt lost control of his Chevrolet coming out of Turn 4 on Lap 49, spun into the wall and started an eight-truck pileup. No one was hurt.

Just a few laps later, another accident involved five trucks, including race leader Mike Skinner.

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Buschi's return to NFL is uncertain

BY JOHN ALTAVILLA
The Hartford Courant

Considered the heart and soul of the New England Patriots' defense, Teddy Bruschi, married and the father of three young sons, undoubtedly faces the greatest challenge of his life now that he's been discharged from Massachusetts General Hospital.

"This is a major life event," said Dr. Isaac Silverman, Medical Director of the Stroke Center at Hartford Hospital. "At the very least, it's prone to make you wonder about one's health, especially for someone so young."

Two days after having a mild stroke, Bruschi was released from the hospital Friday afternoon, barely two days after he was admitted, which is not unusual in many cases.

"At the very least, that's a positive sign that the injury was comparatively mild," Dr. Silverman said.

The uncertainty that surrounded the onset of his stroke will likely characterize his prognosis for a total recovery — and return to the NFL — in the months to come.

Various medical experts conclude it's too early to tell if Bruschi will be able to play, although they say reports detailing his responsiveness while hospitalized indicate the chances are better.

"There's no reason to believe that he wouldn't be able to play

again," said Dr. Hilary Onyiu, chief of neurosurgery at the University of Connecticut Medical Center.

Dr. Onyiu cautioned that if Bruschi is eventually placed on blood thinners to aid the healing of an arterial dissection, one of the possible causes of the stroke, it would be unlikely he could play because of the danger of uncontrolled bleeding in case of injury.

According to an NFL medical source who spoke on condition of

anonymity, Bruschi faces a long road of tests, perhaps two to three months, before doctors can determine the extent of the damage.

"But once he's cleared to play, if he's ever cleared to play, he'll be the first one to know what's going on with his body," the source said. "He'll know what the impact has been."

If Bruschi wants to play, according to the source, he'll also likely be asked to legally exonerate any treating physician from a possi-

ble malpractice suit before he's allowed back on the field.

Dr. David Liebeskind, the associate neurology director of the UCLA Stroke Center in Los Angeles, told the Associated Press that Bruschi might never experience future difficulties or setbacks.

"Based on the fact that he's walking and talking, it sounds like he could play," Liebeskind said. "A lot of people who have strokes while young tend to have no effects later. But these things can change quickly."



New England linebacker Teddy Bruschi, left, and his wife, Heidi, leave a hospital on Friday.

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Fowler apologizes for gaffes in résumé

BY DAVE CAMPBELL
The Associated Press

BLOOMINGTON, Minn. — Reggie Fowler apologized Friday for mistakes he made in misleading the public about his background and reiterated he has money to buy the Minnesota Vikings.

The Arizona businessman, poised to become the NFL's first black owner, has an agreement to purchase the club from Red McCombs, pending league approval.

Fowler met with media to accept responsibility for inaccuracies in a biography distributed earlier this week by a public relations firm he's using.

His original bio claimed he played in the NFL with the Cincinnati Bengals, in the Canadian Football League with the Calgary Stampeders and in the Little League World Series.

Fowler, a star linebacker at Wyoming, was cut in training camp by the Bengals and by the Edmonton Eskimos — not the Stampeders. Clarifying the Little League confusion, Fowler said he played with an all-star team in a tournament in California that was called the World Series.

Estimating the last time he created a résumé was more than 20 years ago, Fowler said the errors — other than the degree discrepancy — came from oversights.

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NHL season might be saved as sides meet

BY CHRIS FOSTER
AND HELENE ELLIOTT

Los Angeles Times

In a startling turn of events instigated by two recent inductees to the Hockey Hall of Fame, officials of the NHL and its players' union will meet Saturday in an effort to salvage an abbreviated 2004-2005 season — three days after Commissioner Gary Bettman declared it dead.

The sudden revival of negotiations comes amid an outpouring of concern by players and owners, who felt stung by the cancella-

Framework of deal reportedly reached

tion after coming close earlier this week to bridging their financial differences. The effort was jump-started by Wayne Gretzky, part-owner of the Phoenix Coyotes, and Pittsburgh Penguins player-owner Mario Lemieux, according to sources familiar with the situation.

Late Friday, The Hockey News reported that a deal was done in principle, though the NHL Players' Association denied the re-

port. A source familiar with the negotiations said there was "a lot of work to be done."

The NHLPA announced Saturday's meeting in a statement. NHL executives did not respond to e-mails. Whether the season can be saved hinges on how Bettman reacts to the details in a proposal the union was developing late Friday night, the source said.

Bettman, NHL chief counsel Bill Daly, Gretzky and Lemieux

were expected to meet Saturday morning with NHLPA President Trevor Linden; Ted Sasaki, the union's senior director; Mike Gartner, the union's director of business relations; and the union's entire executive committee.

Linden and Gartner met secretly with Bettman on Thursday, a union source said, and they discussed ways to reach a deal.

That led to a proposal for a salary cap of \$45 million to \$46 million, plus a luxury tax of 40 cents on every dollar of salary above \$40 million, to encourage teams to curb spending. The salary cap represents a compromise between the \$49 million offered by the players earlier in the week and the \$42.5 million sought by owners. The cap would drop to \$42 million if more than eight teams' payrolls reach \$46 million in one season.

The terms can be "tweaked" but not significantly altered, the source said, adding, "They have a framework that they are prepared to go with."

Bob Goodenow, the union's executive director, was not expected to take part in the talks. Well-placed sources said Goodenow told the union's executive committee that he could not recommend such a deal, or any deal like it, and that if the committee wanted to make that deal, it would have to do so on its own.

The players' executive committee — Daniel Alfredsson, Bob Boughner, Vincent Damphousse, Bill Guerin, Arturs Irbe, Trent Klatt — decided to do just that.

"Something needed to be done," said Steve Rucchin, the Anaheim Mighty Ducks' union representative, who was not involved in the committee's decision. "I guess there wasn't total closure even after the season was canceled. Things were happening. I'm not surprised at all."

Even if a tentative agreement is reached this weekend, time is growing short for staging even a fractional season, with a host of logistical and contractual matters needing resolution — among them the 300 players who must return from European teams and the 180 free agents who remain unsigned.

Sources said training camps could be open by Feb. 28, with a



Pittsburgh Penguins player-owner Mario Lemieux, above, was reportedly influential in restarting talks after commissioner Gary Bettman canceled the season Wednesday.

28-game season to begin about a week later.

"Realistically, the next 48 hours can have the impact to determine the next six years in the National Hockey League," said Pat Brisson, a prominent agent.

"This is huge."

Gretzky and Lemieux, two of the game's greats, were said to have talked at length Thursday about how to save the season.

Lemieux is also believed to have talked with players Thursday, while Gretzky said he discussed the labor stalemate with Shane Doan, Phoenix's union representative.

Doan was involved with the believed half-dozen players who were trying to create a proposal suitable to Bettman.

What followed was a series of talks between a group of top-flight players, high-powered agents, concerned owners and influential general managers, who all tried to find a way to salvage the season.

There were also several calls to the union from unhappy players, who wondered why the offer to give in on the salary cap — union executives had long opposed a cap — wasn't made sooner.

"There were a lot of people who really couldn't understand how we could go so long not talking about a cap and then just change over to a cap like that," Dallas Stars' captain Mike Modano said in The Dallas Morning News' Friday editions. "And a lot of people didn't like it."

When asked if Goodenow had the support of the union, Modano replied, "I don't know. I'm not sure."

Bettman was also fielding calls from concerned owners, including those from Montreal, Nashville, Tampa Bay and Carolina, said a source who has talked with some owners.

The source said owners were "devastated that the season was called off" and worried about the financial health of a league that could face irreparable damage to what was a \$2.1 billion industry. The growing disinterest among fans, plus the possibility that ESPN might not pick up its portion on the next two seasons, increased concerns.

"There were a good number of owners who thought the two sides were close enough to get a deal before Bettman shut it down," the source said.

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NHLPA executive director Bob Goodenow was not expected to take part in Saturday's talks and sources said he would not recommend the labor agreement that is reportedly on the table.

Melo makes most of All-Star minutes

Anthony leads NBA sophomores past rookies to earn MVP award

BY EDDIE PELLIS

The Associated Press

DENVER — The unofficial ambassador of this year's All-Star Game got his chance to show that he, too, can play this game.

Carmelo Anthony took advantage of that opportunity, scoring 31 points Friday night to lead the sophomores to a 133-106 victory over the rookies in a matchup between the top stars from the two classes.

"It's another positive thing I can put on my résumé," Anthony said.

It was his only on-court appearance of this All-Star week — a period he has spent hosting parties, fund-raisers and generally showing his friends a good time around his adopted hometown.

Given his one chance to play, Anthony teamed with LeBron James for the first time since the Olympics, and fell just three points short of his season high with the Nuggets. He was the game's Most Valuable Player.

"I know he can play the game of basketball," James said. "Things haven't gone his way so far this year, but he's trying to get his mind straight. I'm so happy for him that he got the MVP tonight. It was supposed to happen this way."

Recuperating from an injured ankle and a bout with the flu, James had 20 points. Dwyane

Wade finished with 12 points and nine assists.

Even though this game will go down as a footnote during the week-end full of them, Anthony said he was glad to have played well.

"I go out there and I play basketball," he said. "I can't put my head down because I didn't make the game. Like I tell everybody, this is only my second year in the NBA. I'm going to be here for a while. I'm not going anywhere."

Anthony's accomplishment came in a game that was surprisingly competitive.

Led by a handful of dunks by Tony Allen of the Celtics, the over-matched rookies — who came in mainly seeking to avoid embarrassment — held their own for the second half.

Not until James made a 16-foot shot with 16:47 left did the sophomores take the lead for good.

"The sophomores spoke about it in the locker room at halftime," rookie Luol Deng said. "They came out and played with some intensity and we could see that."

As the half drew on, the sophomores' lead widened and play loosened up, although it never reached the silliness of last year's game, a 142-118 win for the sophomores that devolved into little more than a dunking contest.

Commissioner David Stern promised that scene wouldn't be



Sophomore Carmelo Anthony, left, drives by rookie Andre Igouda, right, during the first half of the NBA Rookie Challenge in Denver.

repeated this year, and made it clear he wanted players' best efforts in this exhibition.

"He didn't want the game like I was last year," Anthony said. "I got a little out of hand, which we all agreed on."

With their coach, P.J. Carlesimo, pacing the sideline, Allen, Deng and Al Jefferson led the rookies with 17 points each.

Chris Bosh had 26 points and 14 boards for the sophomores and Kyle Korver had 21.

But Anthony was the star and the fan favorite. His fiancée, MTV VJ La La Vasquez, watched from her customary seat at courtside, and every move he made was greeted by oohs and ahhs from the fans.

The game, as usual, was filled

with great dunks, none better than one early in the game when Wade feathered an underhanded pass in the lane up high for James, who slammed it down hard.

James finished with four slams — including a thundering windmill dunk — but that's all the fans will see until Sunday. He declined an invitation to participate in Saturday's dunk contest. Earlier in the day, he said it was because he didn't feel well enough. After the game, he told a different story.

"Why don't guys do it anymore? Because all the dunks are taken," James said. "There are no more dunks. If we come up with some new dunks, people might do it. Every time there's a dunk out there, people say they've seen it before."

NBA scoreboard

Eastern Conference

Atlantic Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	27	26	.509	—
Philadelphia	26	27	.491	1
New Jersey	23	30	.436	4
New York	21	32	.396	6
Toronto	21	32	.396	6

Southeast Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Miami	40	14	.741	—
Washington	39	15	.722	.577
Orlando	28	24	.538	11
Charlotte	18	34	.345	22
Atlanta	10	41	.196	29½

Central Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Detroit	32	19	.627	—
Cleveland	30	21	.588	.2
Chicago	28	23	.551	.6
Indiana	25	26	.490	1.5
Milwaukee	20	30	.400	11½

Western Conference

Southwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
San Antonio	35	16	.686	—
Dallas	35	16	.686	5
Houston	31	20	.608	10
Memphis	30	23	.566	11
New Orleans	42	20	.68	30

Northwest Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Seattle	35	15	.700	—
Minnesota	32	17	.659	10
Denver	24	29	.453	12½
Portland	21	30	.412	16½
Utah	17	35	.327	19

Pacific Division				
Team	W	L	Pct	GB
Phoenix	41	13	.759	—
Sacramento	39	19	.672	13
L.A. Lakers	26	24	.520	13
L.A. Clippers	23	27	.461	17½
Golden State	15	38	.283	25½

Friday's games

No games scheduled.

Saturday's games

All-Star Game at Madison Square Garden, New York.

Sunday's games

No games scheduled.

Monday's games

No games scheduled.

Tuesday's games

Indiana at Charlotte

Milwaukee at Charlotte

Orlando at New York

Washington at Houston

Atlanta at Sacramento

Boston at L.A. Lakers

Game: Theme missing this time around

GAME, FROM BACK PAGE

The big event is the All-Star Game itself, and it's wide open in terms of being there for the talking for someone who wants to stamp it with his own signature. Shaquille O'Neal did so last year in Los Angeles with just the right mix of playfulness — glooming himself in the lens of a camera during a stoppage in play, running a fast break all by himself, dribbling upcourt and heading for the lane while daring anyone to step in his way and risk the wrath of a collision with his 360-pound frame.

"Guys get to do stuff they're not supposed to do, and it's a show," Shaquille O'Neal said. "Last year I won the MVP on silliness alone."

But will it be interesting? And will it be a theme emerger? Larry Brown figures those factors will take care of themselves — just as they did 29 years ago when the ABA had its final All-Star game in this city, an event in which Brown's Denver Nuggets played against a team of ABA All-Stars. Included among them was Julius Erving, who gave that game — and some would say that entire decade — its signature professional basketball moment by draining a hometown favorite David Thompson in a slam dunk contest held at halftime.

That was a pretty amazing weekend," Brown said. "It was one of the most enjoyable experiences I've ever had."

NBA trying to learn from NHL lockout

BY CHRIS SHERIDAN

The Associated Press

DENVER — Only a couple hours before the news broke that NHL labor talks would resume, NBA commissioner David Stern said Friday he'd learned a lesson from hockey's collective bargaining negotiations.

"If you think a move at the last second can do the deal, you may be raising the stakes too much and eliminating the flexibility that might come from making your move earlier," Stern said.

Perhaps "Easy Dave" is about to make a reappearance.

Stern gave himself that nickname more than a decade ago when relations with the players' union had yet to sink to the low point they did in 1998 and 1999, when the NBA went through a costly seven-month lockout.

The seven-year agreement reached back then will expire at the end of June, and a conciliatory tone was set as players and owners held a 90-minute meeting at All-Star weekend. The sides still have major differences, but they're pledging to clear their calendars next month to try to resolve them.

"It was a very calm meeting today," said union president Michael Curry of the Indiana Pacers. "The best thing that was said was: 'Let's get a deal sooner rather than later.'"

Stern and union director Billy Hunter pledged to hold several smaller negotiating sessions in March, and Curry even said he's optimistic a deal will be reached by the end of the regular season.

Neither Stern nor Hunter were that positive, but Stern said the recent cancellation of the NHL season had made him stop and reflect. A veteran negotiator with a reputation as a tenacious litigator, Stern said each side in the hockey impasse softened its stance too late.

Last Monday, the hockey players dropped their unequivocal opposition to a salary cap, and the NHL owners moved off their insistence on having a link between league revenues and player costs.

But less than 48 hours later, NHL commissioner Gary Bettman canceled the season. It may still be canceled, however, if talks scheduled for Saturday in New York produce an agreement.

"Indirectly it may affect what we do," Curry said. "But we haven't been negotiating based on what hockey is doing, just as we won't do it with football or baseball."

Among the items sought by NBA owners are a reduction in the maximum length of long-term contracts, a minimum age of 20 and a reduction in the annual pay increases allowed in long-term deals.

The union is seeking reductions in the so-called escrow and luxury taxes designed to place a drag on the growth of player salaries.

Whether Stern, Hunter and their attorneys can bridge those gaps will remain the billion-dollar question.

"We know where the deal can be made. The question is are we both willing to give up something to get there, or do we end up in some lockout," Hunter said.

The sides have historically had difficulty reaching a middle ground in their negotiations. Not since 1988 has a new agreement been reached before the old one expired.

"We have a chance to get something done," Curry said. "We're not in the same situation that we were in back in '98 when we had no structure to lean on. We do have a structure, but we have some tweaking to do to get a deal that's satisfying for both parties."

Curry was joined by players Terry Rattiff of Portland, Eric Snow of Cleveland, Pat Garrity of Orlando, Ervin Johnson of Minnesota, Damon Jones of Miami, P.J. Brown of New Orleans and Malik Rose of San Antonio.

The owners were represented by Jerry Colangelo of Phoenix, Steve Mills of New York, Wm Grossbeck of Boston, Micky Arison of Miami, Larry Tanenbaum of Toronto and Stan Kroenke of Denver.

Boss impressed with 'cleaned up' Johnson

The Associated Press

The Big Unit met his new employer, The Boss.

Randy Johnson was sitting at his locker after Friday's workout, in Tampa, Fla., talking to reporters, when New York Yankees owner George Steinbrenner walked into the clubhouse and greeted the five-time Cy Young Award winner for the first time since adding him to his pinstriped collection of All-Stars.

"Hi, big man," Steinbrenner said.

"How you doing, Mr. Steinbrenner?" Johnson responded.

"Glad you're here. Glad you're cleaned up, and glad you're here," Steinbrenner said.

Johnson was puzzled.

"I haven't cleaned up. I haven't even taken a shower yet," he said.

"I know," Steinbrenner, "but I mean—"

Then, the Big Unit realized The Boss meant that Johnson had

trimmed most of his facial hair to conform to Steinbrenner's rules.

A few minutes earlier, New York manager Joe Torre pretty much told Johnson to start the season opener against Boston on April 3 at Yankee Stadium, a game that possibly will match the Big Unit against former Arizona teammate Curt Schilling.

"It's not a bad guy," Torre said. "And the reason that I'm not officially saying that is because when we do tell you that, I really want to be in a position to tell the guy who is pitching two, three, four and five at the same time."

Meanwhile, in Fort Myers, Fla., Boston kept up the attacks on the Yankees, with Bronson Arroyo joining Schilling, Trot Nixon and David Wells in the criticism of Alex Rodriguez. Arroyo said the Yankees third baseman "was out of line" when Arroyo hit him with a pitch on July 24 and his reaction helped spark a brawl.

And catcher Jason Varitek said, "I don't need to boast" about workout habits. That's what Rodriguez did in an interview last month.

John Henry, owner of the 2004 World Series champions, tried to downplay the talk.

"It's just natural," he said during the first official workout for pitchers and catchers. "The rivalry is the biggest in sports and you're going to have people on both sides saying things, like myself, like I'm prone to do. I'll try to avoid that today."

Henry said the Red Sox may give players their World Series rings at a separate ceremony rather than before their home opener April 11 against the Yankees.

The Chicago White Sox's biggest issue is the health of The Big Hurt.

Frank Thomas hasn't recovered from ankle surgery and will not report to the White Sox along with other position players Monday.

White Sox General Manager Ken Williams had said the two-time American League MVP was expected to report with the rest of the position players. Mitchell

ers, catchers and a handful of other players reported Wednesday.

"I am disappointed for him," manager Ozzie Guillen said in Tucson, Ariz. "We want to have him here, but I knew this was going to happen. ... That is why I prepared myself and my team to move on without Frank. When Frank is here, we will take care of him."

Thomas had a bone graft and two screws inserted on Oct. 6 to repair a partial stress fracture of his left ankle, injured while fielding a grounder June 17.

A decision on Thomas' return will be made after he meets with doctors the first week of March.

In Kissimmee, Fla., Tim Hudson was getting used to his first full spring training with the Atlanta Braves. He had spent his entire major league career with Oakland, where he pitched alongside Mark Mulder and Barry Zito, before he was dealt to the Braves on Dec. 16.

"This clubhouse is a lot different," Hudson said. "Our clubhouse in Oakland was more of a frat house, and here it's all business. I guess that's why the Braves have been as successful as they've been."

In Peoria, Ariz., San Diego Padres manager Bruce Bochy chose Woody Williams as his Opening Day starter.

Williams, who signed as a free agent this offseason, got the nod over Jay Peavy for the game in Colorado on April 4. Peavy, the



New York Yankees pitcher Jaret Wright, left, gestures as he chats with Kevin Brown, center and Randy Johnson during workouts on Friday.

major league ERA leader (2.27) last season, will start the home opener against Pittsburgh on April 7.

"The guy has his best year on the staff, and to have that home opener is a rewarding thing, too," Bochy said. "It's an Opening Day; it's just on the road versus at home. It will be good for the fans to see Jake go at home."

In Scottsdale, Ariz., manager Felipe Alou got through their first day of workouts with no rain. It rained late Thursday, then a downpour hit Friday afternoon — and the wet weather was expected to continue into early next week. The Giants

put their tarp down in Scottsdale Stadium last night.

But San Francisco's first practice went off without a hitch.

"We had a good day. No rain," Alou said. "The field was dry enough to keep our Plan A in order."

In Dunedin, Fla., John Gibbons was looking forward to his first spring training as Toronto's manager.

"The Blue Jays have shown some confidence in me," said Gibbons, promoted from first-base coach to interim manager last summer, then given the job for good in October. "They gave me this opportunity, so I owe them something, and I plan to take advantage of it."

Rain washes out Nissan play; could force 36-hole event

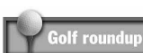
The Associated Press

LOS ANGELES — Heavy rain that flooded bunkers and covered the greens with thousands of worms forced officials to cancel golf Saturday in the Nissan Open, raising the possibility of the PGA Tour's first 36-hole event in nearly nine years.

"Our main goal is to get 36 holes in," PGA Tour tournament director Mark Russell said.

Even that might be wishful thinking.

Some rain is in the forecast Sunday, with more heavy showers expected on Monday. The Match Play Championship, a \$7.5 million World Golf Championship, is scheduled to start Wednesday down the coast at La Costa.



This was the first washout on the PGA Tour since no golf was played in the second round of the Match Play Championship last year.

Russell said there is still slight hope for a 72-hole tournament, but even going to a Monday finish to get in 54 holes requires a break from the dreary skies over Sunset Boulevard.

"We're at the mercy of the elements, and right now it has us on the ground," Russell said.

Brian Davis of England has not

hit a shot since he opened with a 65 for the first-round lead on Thursday.

Only half the 144-man field completed the second round Friday, with Chad Campbell at 9-under-133 and leading Robert Allenby by three shots at Riviera Country Club.

None of the others made it even halfway through the round Friday when play was suspended by darkness. They are to return at 7:30 a.m. Sunday to resume — or in the case of Davis, begin — the second round.

Kevin Sutherland birdied two of his first four holes and was at 6 under.

Tiger Woods can't buy a break at Riviera. He finally got off to a

good start at his hometown PGA Tour event — the only tour event he has played at least four times without winning — and it might not even count. Woods was at 5 under for the tournament with 14 holes left in his second round.

PGA Tour policy states that if a tournament is at 36 holes, the winner gets \$864,000 toward the money list, but it would not count as an official victory. That means the winner would not get a two-year exemption on tour, or a spot in the winners-only field at Kapalua next year.

The last time a PGA Tour event went only 36 holes was the 1996 Buick Challenge at Callaway Gardens, when Michael Bradley won in a five-way playoff.

Other 36-hole winners on tour include Brian Henninger at the Southern Farm Bureau Classic and Neal Lancaster in the Byron Nelson Championship, both in 1994. The Pebble Beach National Pro-Am only got in two rounds in 1996, and officials canceled the tournament because it was played over three courses.

Russell said it was unclear to spectators what might happen if everyone only completed 18 holes and the weather did not allow for any more golf.

Riviera got 2½ inches of rain during a six-hour period before Saturday was washed out. Bunkers had pools a foot deep at the

low points, and small streams ran through most of the fairways. And because there was so much rain, thousands of worms rose to the surface, making greens look as though they were littered with small pine needles.

"We can't play golf today," Russell said. "The bunkers are totally gone."

Rainy weather is not uncommon in Los Angeles this time of the year, but the Nissan Open still has had only one tournament in its 29-year history that has not been played over 72 holes.

That was in 1993, when 54 holes were played and Tom Kite won by three shots for the last of his 19 career victories.

Eaks, McCullough lead ACE

NAPLES, Fla. — Curtis Strange got off to a slow start in his Champions Tour debut, shooting a 2-over 74 to fall eight strokes behind first-round leaders R.W. Eaks and Mike McCullough in the ACE Group Classic.

Strange had four birdies, four bogeys and a double bogey. The two-time U.S. Open champion, a television analyst for most of the past eight seasons, won 17 PGA Tour titles, highlighted by 1988 and 1989 U.S. Open victories.

Hale Irvin, coming off a victory in Hawaii, opened with a 67, and Ron Streck, Wayne Lee, Jim Thorpe, Jerry Pate and Leonard Thompson had 68s. Defending champion Craig Stadler shot 73.

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Naples crowned champion of Italy

Wildcats finish season unbeaten in conference

BY ALEX STEELE

Stars and Stripes

In a matchup of Italy's powerhouses, Naples defeated Signonella twice this weekend to capture the American Schools in Italy crown.

Naples, playing at home, beat the Lady Jaguars 37-32 on Friday and 56-40 on Saturday to finish 8-0 in the conference and 12-1 overall. Signonella ended the regular season 5-3 and 11-3 overall.

Senior Michelle Aguilera, Naples' team leader, again contributed in several phases of the game. On Saturday, she had seven assists, six rebounds and three steals while junior Mikal Willmer had a team-high 18 points.

On Friday, Aguilera had five assists while leaving the bulk of the scoring to Michelle Brown (11 points) and Renna Damon (10 points).

Naples will compete against Division II teams in the DODDS European championships, which are scheduled to start Wednesday in Mannheim, Germany. Signonella will play against D-III schools.

Hanau ends season with win: Hanau secured third place in Division II with victories at SHAPE and Brussels this weekend.

Hanau (10-4) handed SHAPE its third straight loss on Friday, winning 39-25. Hanau then sent Division III Brussels to its sixth straight defeat on Saturday. That game ended 53-13 midway through the fourth quarter



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Dominic Snyder, left, looks to maneuver around Heidelberg's Veronica Payne.



RAYMOND T. CONWAY/Stars and Stripes

Wiesbaden's Nancy Jensen, left, battles Heidelberg's T'Londa Finch for a rebound during the Lions' 42-34 victory Friday in Heidelberg. The European Championships begin Wednesday.

when the 40-point mercy rule was applied.

As usual, Hanau was led by senior Katisha Fauntleroy, who scored 24 points against SHAPE and 14 against Brussels. Junior Kyri Bye-Nagel had 12 points on Friday and 14 on Saturday.

Ansbach's winning streak hits 31: Ansbach easily won its 31st straight game but was denied a chance for No. 32 when Saturday's game against Bamberg was snowed out.

Ansbach, which beat visiting Bamberg 46-26 on Friday, enters the Division III play-offs as the favorite to win the title.

Ketke Johnson had team highs of 24 points and eight rebounds for Ansbach, while Britney Britton contributed nine points and six rebounds.

Ansbach is close to the record 34-game winning streak set by Ramstein from 1997 to 2000.

Alex Steele is a Stars and Stripes sports clerk.

Prep scoreboard

Girls basketball

Division I
Heidelberg 42, Wiesbaden 34
Friday at Heidelberg
Wiesbaden 9 7 9 10-34
Heidelberg 20 2 2 15-42
Top scorers: Wies: Britanny Harris, 18; Heidelberg: 5. Adrienne Woodley, 18; Shalonda Larry, 16; Kamillah Robbery, 13; Germaine Callan, 12.

Kaiserslautern 46, Würzburg 17
Friday at Würzburg
Kaiserslautern 10 13 15 8-46
Würzburg 2 2 2 15-17
Top scorers: Kais: Blanca Geres-Perez, 19; Britanny Smith, 8; Lynndee Hyter, 6; Wzbg: Tiffany Memelka, 8; Diana Rosslerova, 4.

Noteworthy: Geres-Perez recorded a double-double, earning 11 rebounds. Allison McKearn had 7 rebounds for Würzburg, and Amanda Mastrian had 4 rebounds, 4 steals and 2 blocked shots.

Heidelberg 35, Würzburg 19
Saturday at Würzburg
Heidelberg 9 9 5 7-25
Würzburg 3 4 6 15-19
Top scorers: Heid: Corrine Payne, 7; Shalonda Larry, 7; Kamillah Robbery, 6; Wzbg: Tamika White, 4; Rosslerova, 4; Candice Cushman, 4; Memelka, 4.
Noteworthy: McKearn had 13 rebounds for Würzburg, Mastrian had 3 steals.

Division II
Hanau 39, SHAPE 25
Friday at SHAPE
Hanau 12 17 12 7-29
SHAPE 6 10 10-25
Top scorers: Han: Katisha Fauntleroy, 24; Kyri Bye-Nagel, 17; SHA: Ashley McGee, 11; Vicky Kearney, 10.
Noteworthy: Kearney grabbed 9 rebounds for SHAPE and McGee added 5 steals.

IV-Hanau 39, Stuttgart 22
Friday at Stuttgart
IV-Hanau 8 6 11-32
Stuttgart 3 5 8-24

Noteworthy: Patch scored 11 rebounds, and teammate Jessica Linka had 5 steals. Anderson had 12 rebounds for Patch, with Lalau adding 8 and Betty contributing 5 steals.

IV-Patch 18, Vilsack 14
Saturday at Vilsack
Patch 8 6 11-32
Vilsack 3 5 8-24

Top scorers: Patch: Lalau, 15; Vilsack: Alex McCroskey, 6; Vils: Sanders, 18; Chambers, 8; Cathy Delano, 8.

Noteworthy: Chambers led Vilsack with 12 rebounds. Sanders added 8 rebounds and Linka had 6 rebounds and 18 steals. Lalau led all players with 22 rebounds and 4 blocks. Vilsack concludes season play with a 1-2-2 record. Patch finishes 6-4.

IV-Vilsack 41, Patch 19 (OT)
Saturday at Vilsack
Patch 8 6 11-32
Vilsack 3 5 8-24

Top scorers: Patch: Lalau, 15; Vilsack: Alex McCroskey, 6; Vils: Sanders, 18; Chambers, 8; Cathy Delano, 8.

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Ansbach captures Division III-South regular-season title

BY ALEX STEELE

Stars and Stripes

Mother Nature helped decide the outcome of the boys Division III-South race.

Saturday's game between Ansbach and Bamberg was canceled due to snow, making Ansbach, which beat Bamberg 48-36 on Friday, the regular-season champion.

The teams were 6-0 entering the weekend, but after the Cougars won, Bamberg had to win by at least 13 points Saturday to win the title. Bamberg never got the chance.

"Fortunately, we have the tournament to

add closure to the season," Ansbach coach Ted Marr said. "I think there's a real good chance we'll meet Bamberg in the finals."

Ansbach finished the regular season 10-3. Bamberg, which started 0-6, is 6-7.

The DODDS championship tournament for all four divisions is scheduled to begin in Mannheim, Germany, on Wednesday.

Lions wins D-I crown: Heidelberg, winners of the past five Division I championships, secured the top seed for the tourna-

ment as regular-season division champion.

Friday's 59-58 home victory over Wiesbaden clinched the division title for Heidelberg, which defeated Würzburg 51-35 on Saturday to improve to 6-0 in league play.

Heidelberg, which lost in overtime to Kaiserslautern last weekend, scored 19 points in the first quarter against Wiesbaden before withstanding a rally.

Damon Fleming led the Lions (11-3 overall) with 16 points and 13 rebounds.

Wiesbaden was led by David Bradford (13 points). The Warriors entered Saturday's game at Kaiserslautern 2-3 in Divi-

sion I and 7-6 overall.

Naples sweeps Signonella: Naples locked up second place in the American Schools in Italy conference with two victories over visiting Signonella.

Led by Andrew Watson's with 20 points, the Wildcats won 84-50 on Friday. Noah Stevenson had 18 points in Saturday's 64-50 triumph.

Naples finished the regular season 12-2, the Wildcats won 84-50 on Friday. Noah Stevenson had 18 points in Saturday's 64-50 triumph.

Alex Steele is a Stars and Stripes sports clerk.

Boys roundup

SEE SCOREBOARD ON PAGE 39

Scott, Zachar are European wrestling champs again

BY RUSTY BRYAN
Stars and Stripes

WIESBADEN ARMY AIRFIELD, Germany — Two of the five returning champions to Jonathan Painter of Würzburg earned a 130-pound title to go with the 112-pound crown he took home last season. Heidelberg's Andrew Zachar, seeded behind Guadalupe Flores of Naples, added a European 160-pound title to the 152 version he won last year.

"I don't care what my seed is," Scott said after defeating a fast-closing Painter 13-9 in the title bout. "They can seed me 16 for all I care."

Scott took a 10-4 lead into the final 2:09 of the title bout before Painter closed with a rush.

Zachar defeated Wiesbaden's Matt Alexander, who knocked off Flores in the semifinals, 8-5 by exploiting a two of double-leg takedowns.

"It's a simple move," said Zachar, who is familiar with Alexander, a Division I rival. "He's one of my toughest opponents."

Three other returning champions failed to win titles. Karl Saucier was upset in Friday's 145-pound quarterfinals, and Mike Monaco of Naples and Jesse Painter of Würzburg placed second at 140 and 135, respectively.

Monaco fell 8-6 to top-seeded Devon Gardner of Naples, a 2003 champion whom Monaco beat 6-4 in last season's 140-pound bout, and Painter lost 9-2 to Coby Reinhardt of Ramstein.

Monaco and Gardner were tied going into the final two minutes, but Gardner



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Würzburg's Jonathan Painter, right, tries to get out of the grasp of Michael Central's Jonathan Scott at the 130-pound final Saturday. Scott won the DODDS title.

took a 7-6 lead with 1:45 left in the match when Monaco was penalized for locking his hands. Monaco tried everything he had into trying to turn Gardner over the next 90 seconds, but Gardner held on.

"He came close to turning me. I was scared," Gardner said. "I knew he would come at me like that. I didn't wrestle all out in the semifinals so that I would have something left for this match."

Painter, never short on muscle and desire, could do nothing with the technically proficient Reinhardt. The Ramstein freshman, who placed third in the Ohio middle school championships last season, would not allow the determined Painter to complete any move.

"Jesse's fun," said Reinhardt, who will have a chance to tie the graduated Josh Anderson of Patch as DODDS-Europe's

only four-time champions. Reinhardt said he'll be at Ramstein his entire high school career.

Ramstein senior Cole Maxey turned a DODDS double when he added the European 215-pound crown to the Far East title he won last season in Japan. Maxey pinned Richard Rendon of SHAPE at the 5:20 mark of a gritty match.

Maxey trailed throughout the bout and was down 7-4 with 1:20 to go when his relentless pursuit of Rendon produced a takedown into a half-nelson body press for the fall.

"There's no stopping out there," the Ramstein senior said.

Reinhardt and Maxey were among five first-timers who won championships on Saturday.

Würzburg's Anthony Davis, a freshman, just took the sport up last fall. He pinned Heidelberg's Chris Turner in 3:33 for his win. Wiesbaden's Chad Abramson downed Todd Thom of Naples 6-4 at 189, and Heidelberg's 5-foot-6 Jordan Yakuma dominated 6-foot-2 Cole McClain of Menwith Hill 6-3 at 152.

"I just tried to keep my hips on him," Yakuma, a senior in his first year in Europe, said of fending off his lanky opponent.

Bitburg's Daniel Brunal, who finished second at 103 last season, made the top rung in his fourth year of trying when he downed Seth Romero of Menwith Hill 9-6 for the 112-pound crown.

"All the work was worth it," Brunal said. Bryan Isbell of Brussels joined Brunal in trying 2004 silver into 2005 gold with a freestyle-looking 12-8 victory over Heidelberg's Rex Ely at 171. Isbell, coming off a battle with mononucleosis, used his skill on his feet for the victory, taking Ely down four times and reversing him.

Aviano sophomore Gary Vogt improved on a third-place finish in 2004 with a 5-2 verdict at 119 over Paul Moesman of Brussels. Nick Sheppard of Ramstein, who won last year's Europeans, man-handled Andrew Moon of Heidelberg 12-0 at 125. Both were top seeds.

James Horst of Ramstein made a 4-1 for-4 for Royals in the finals with a 4-1 victory over Gregg Surpris of Wiesbaden at 175.

But the home team got its treat at 245, when Tony Gagnon, another second-place finisher in 2004, reversed long-time Aviano's Gary King 1:32 in their title bout.

"I used a switch and caught him in a Turk," Gagnon said. "I was surprised. I thought the match would last six minutes."

E-mail Rusty Bryan at: brayandr@starstripes.com

See Monday's edition for results of the top six finishers in each weight class.

High school scoreboard

SCOREBOARD, FROM PAGE 38

Italy Naples 37, Signella 32 (Friday at Naples)

Signella 11 6 7 8-32 Naples 7 13 10-37

Top scorers—Sip: Unavailable; Lash: Williams 18, Aquila 14, Dalton 10, Brown 8.

Netoworthy—Morris 11, Carradine 10, Anderson 9, and 9 steals.

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Boys basketball

Heidelberg 55, Wiesbaden 58

Top scorers—Wies: David Bradford 13, Brock Lee 12, Shannon McVey 12, Heide: Brian Fleming 16, T.C. Blanks 14, Tyreke West 15.

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War Is Tough on Families

Military life has enough challenges without worrying about how your loved ones will contact you... especially during times of conflict. I know, because I grew up in a military family and served as a Navy Admiral.

You can count on the American Red Cross to help you wherever you go. Whether you're at sea, or on an installation, we can help your loved ones back home get messages to you, or from you, in case of emergency. We can also help you through counseling and other needed assistance.

The Red Cross was there for my family, and we'll be there for yours. In fact, we support thousands of military families each year.

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Marsha Evans
President and CEO, American Red Cross
Rear Admiral, U.S. Navy (Ret.)



**American
Red Cross**

Together, we can save a life

Crashing the party

ACC newcomer Virginia Tech shows itself to be more than just a football school with rousing upset of Duke

By HANK KURZ JR.
The Associated Press

BLACKSBURG, Va. — Seth Greenberg took over a bad team in the Big East when he was hired to be Virginia Tech's basketball coach before last season.

After Thursday night's shocking defeat of No. 7 Duke, Greenberg is leading an upstart team in the Atlantic Coast Conference.

"This is just one of those special nights," Greenberg said following the 67-65 victory. "It's something that, as we're trying to build a program, you can hang your hat on."

It's also a signal to other ACC schools that the Hokies are not just mere patsies on the basketball court, afterthoughts brought over when the university was recruited along with Miami to bolster ACC football. Incidentally, Virginia Tech also made a successful debut on the gridiron, winning the conference title and securing the ACC's BCS berth.

The Hokies (13-10, 6-6 ACC) ended a three-game losing streak and pulled into a three-way tie for fourth in the league with Maryland and Miami. They also averaged a 100-65 loss to the Blue Devils less than three weeks ago.

The Hokies were 15-14 last season but many thought that the move to the ACC and the subsequent stacking of their schedule with traditional powers such as Duke, North Carolina and Maryland — would doom them to several years of sub-.500 records.

So far, however, Virginia Tech has shown it can compete.

"Now we belong. Hokies guard Zabian Dowdell said after the Duke game. "I mean, now we have to take us serious, now. Whether they like it or not, we're here."

"This is just one of those special nights. It's something that, as we're trying to build a program, you can hang your hat on."

Seth Greenberg
Virginia Tech coach

Duke is all too aware.

The Blue Devils seemed poised to run away with the game before Coleman Collins energized the crowd with a dunk midway through the second half. The Hokies also put together a 9-0 run to take a 58-54 lead with 7:07 left.

Then, after J.J. Redick hit a three-pointer with 22.9 seconds left to give the Blue Devils a 65-64 lead, Dowdell made a three-pointer from the right wing with 14.6 seconds remaining that caused the sellout crowd to erupt.

Moments later, hundreds of fans poured onto the court to celebrate one of the biggest victories in school history.

"They just willed us to win down the stretch," Greenberg said of the crowd. "They were magnificent. They just embraced and took ownership and motivated and helped us go to another level. That's what college basketball is all about, having a chance to do what we did tonight."

The Hokies had plenty to do

with it. They outbounced the Blue Devils 49-32, led by Collins with 18.

"They outgout us. They showed a great deal of poise," Duke coach Mike Krzyzewski said. "For us to get outbounced by 17 in a basketball game shows something about us, but more about the other team."

The key, Jamon Gordon said, was believing, and forgetting the earlier loss at Duke when some questioned the wide disparity in free throws. The Blue Devils went to the line 49 times that day, the Hokies just 23.

"I told the team (Wednesday) that we can't play with the refs. If they call it, they call it," Gordon said. "Just keep playing hard and if we can keep it close in the last few minutes, we have a chance to win it."

When they did, there were accolades all around:

■ Collins outplayed Duke's Shelden Williams, adding 14 points and five blocks to his rebounding.

■ Gordon, a 6-foot-3 sophomore, had 17 points, six rebounds and four of the Hokies' 12 blocks.

■ Carlos Dixon, the lone senior, matched Redick, point for point and got him into foul trouble.

■ Dowdell answered Redick's go-ahead three-pointer, then lost his shirt when he tossed it into the crowd during the victory celebration.

■ Jeff King, the starting tight end in football, who rebounded his own missed free throw and got the ball to Dixon for a three-pointer and a 56-54 Virginia Tech lead.

"That was like The possession of the game and so emblematic of their effort," Krzyzewski said, "which was such a winning effort."



Virginia Tech's Zabian Dowdell launches what proved to be the winning three-pointer over Duke's Daniel Ewing (5) in the final seconds Thursday night. ACC newcomer Virginia Tech showed it is a team to be reckoned with after a 67-65 upset of the league's perennial powerhouse.

Curry takes advantage of second chance

By JEFF LATZKE
The Associated Press

STILLWATER, Okla. — One basketball season was all it took, and JamesOn Curry went from being the star of stars in high school to finding himself without a college team.

Scoring more than 40 points a game, Curry was popular, successful and headed to North Carolina to play for the Tar Heels.

Then he was caught in a drug sting at his high school, and it was all taken away.

He was kicked off the basketball team, his scholarship offer was rescinded and other schools shied away, too.

Oklahoma State came along to give him a second chance — and he's taking advantage of it. The freshman guard from Mebane, N.C., earned a spot in the starting lineup five games ago, and he has the Cowboys playing much like the team that made it to the Final Four a year ago.

Since the move, he's gone from averaging 5.8 points to scoring

"I had to grow up fast because of my past and what happened. Coming here and being so far away, I had to grow up."

JamesOn Curry
Oklahoma State guard

14.2, he's shooting 65 percent from three-point range and the Cowboys have won five games in a row.

"I'm the type of player that I want to be in there," 19-year-old Curry said. "I want to be the game. I want that shot, I want that good pass or I want that steal. I want to make that big play."

"I just have that attitude."

Curry set North Carolina prep scoring records for a freshman, sophomore and junior before breaking the career mark his senior year. He averaged 40.2 points and scored at least 25 in every game of his senior season before being dismissed following the Final Four.

At age 18, he was caught selling marijuana to an undercover police officer who had been posing

as a student at Eastern Alamance High School. Dozens of students were charged in the drug sting.

Curry pleaded guilty to six felony drug counts on April 5, received three years of probation and was ordered to pay several fines and perform 200 hours of community service. Two days later, North Carolina coach Roy Williams rescinded his scholarship offer.

At first, no one showed any interest in the troubled teen. Then, Oklahoma State assistant James Dickey got a phone call from a friend asking about Curry.

"When the question was posed to me, 'Would you guys be interested in JamesOn Curry?' I tried to temper my enthusiasm," Dickey said.

Oklahoma State had heard

about Curry, but never expected he'd be available. The 6-foot-3 guard had told his high school coach he didn't want to play for a school more than a two-hour drive from home — or that forgot to capitalize the 'O' in his first name.

"That was like the better sounding it was," Dickey said. "I think the theme from everyone was: terrific young man, outstanding basketball player."

Dickey and assistant Sean Sutton went to visit with Curry and came back hoping he'd commit to Oklahoma State.

"After we made the trip to North Carolina, there was no doubt in our minds that we really wanted him," Dickey said. "We were really impressed."

Cowboys coaches talked to people who knew Curry and became

comfortable trusting him in the program.

"The bottom line was made a mistake as a young man. All of us have made mistakes," Dickey said. "He'll grow from that. He's past it, and we're going to move on and focus on the positive things."

And there are plenty of positives since Curry arrived in Stillwater. He surpassed his goal of at least a 3.25 grade-point average, was able to join with a team that features seven seniors and has contributed more and more as the season progressed.

"I had to grow up fast because of my past and what happened," Curry said. "Coming here and being so far away, I had to grow up."

"I think there's no doubt Coach (Eddie) Sutton would always be there and my teammates are always there, but it's nothing like your mom and dad."

Making the starting lineup is not enough for Curry. He has big plans.

"I want to be best player ever to come here," he said.

Austrians sweep men's downhill; Miller places fourth

The Associated Press

GARMISCH-PARTENKIRCHEN, Germany — Michael Walchhofer won his second World Cup downhill race in two days, leading a 1-2-3 Austrian sweep ahead of Bode Miller on Saturday and closing in on the discipline title.

Walchhofer easily won Friday's downhill and again tamed the Kandahar course, finishing in 1 minute, 56.50 seconds for his third consecutive World Cup downhill victory overall.

"It was bumper and more difficult today," Walchhofer said. "But I did it and it is really satisfying after all the troubles I've had here in the past."

Walchhofer has finally shaken a long, troublesome trend of crashing on the final turn here. In previous races, he'd crashed four consecutive times on the tricky FIS-Schneise, then last season lost a healthy advantage after skidding onto his backside in the turn and finished 16th.

"It looks like I finally learned to ski that turn," Walchhofer said.

Teammate Mario Scheiber was second Saturday (1:56.59) for his first World Cup downhill top-three finish, and reigning Olympic champion Fritz Strobl was third (1:56.95).

World downhill champion Miller finished one spot off the podium with a time of 1:57.03 and U.S. teammate Daron Rahmler was fifth.

Sports briefs

"I made two mistakes, one that cost me almost a second," said Miller, who led after the first two intervals in Friday's downhill but lost time after going wide coming out of the bothersome FIS-Schneise turn and settled for third.

"The way I've been skiing these days, it's pretty disappointing to be making those kinds of mistakes. It's pretty frustrating," Miller added.

Miller increased his advantage over Austria's Benjamin Raich in the overall World Cup standings. The American has 1,203 points, 167 ahead of Raich, who finished 17th in Saturday's race.

Dorfmeister leads Austria's 1-2 finish in women's super-G

ARE, Sweden — Michaela Dorfmeister and Alexandra Meissnitzer gave Austria the top two spots in a wind-swept super-G race Saturday, while world champion and defending World Cup overall champ Anja Paerson finished fifth before her home fans.

Dorfmeister skied almost flawlessly down the 1,801-meter Olympia course, crossing in 1 minute, 07.53 seconds. It was her second super-G victory of the season.

Meissnitzer was 0.45 behind

and Lucia Recchia of Italy took third, 0.52 back.

"It was a good race, but not perfect," Dorfmeister said. "But when you ski fast you can make mistakes. I'm surprised the victory margin was so big, because the course is not long. It wasn't easy because the wind was difficult at the top."

Dorfmeister's 19th career World Cup victory moved her within two points of teammate Renate Goetschl in the super-G standings.

Lindsey Kildow of the United States, seventh in Saturday's race, is third in the standings with 326 points.

Janica Kostelic of Croatia, who won three titles in the world championships, was 0.54 off Dorfmeister's pace and finished fourth, enough to overtake Finland's Tanja Poutiainen for the overall World Cup lead. Kostelic has 928 points; Poutiainen has 909.

Raid rescues Urbina's mother from abductors in Venezuela

CARACAS, Venezuela — Venezuelan police stormed a mountain camp and rescued the mother of Detroit Tigers pitcher Ugoeth Urbina from kidnappers who demanded \$6 million in ransom, ending an ordeal that lasted more than five months.

The raid Friday left at least one of the abductors dead, but 54-year-old Maura Villarreal was unharmed, police said.

Urbina was reunited with his mother late Friday at a police station in Caracas, where he hurriedly slipped past reporters to go inside, saying only: "I'm happy. Excuse me, but now I just want to see her."

Officers from a special anti-kidnapping unit rescued Villarreal hours earlier from a remote mountainous area in the southern state of Bolivar, said Joel Rengifo, the chief officer in the division.

"It was a clean and well-planned operation," said Rengifo, who added that Villarreal was unharmed.

The major league's mother, who had been missing since she was kidnapped from her home Sept. 1, told reporters the experience was "unexpected — I never thought they would kidnap me."

"You can't say they treated me either well or poorly. The most hurtful thing was having to hear them saying that my son didn't love me because he didn't pay," Villarreal said.

Prosecutors toughen charges against former Iowa star

IOWA CITY, Iowa — Prosecutors filed tougher charges Friday against former Iowa basketball player Pierre Pierce in connection with an alleged assault on his former girlfriend last month.

The new charges, which supersede six previous counts filed last week, include two counts of

first-degree burglary, one count of assault with intent to commit sexual assault and one count of fourth-degree criminal mischief.

Pierce says Pierce, 21, choked his former girlfriend in her townhouse, threatened her with a knife and stripped her after an argument over her new boyfriend. Pierce also is accused of causing damage to her apartment and stealing a laptop and camera.

The amended charges mean Pierce is charged with three felonies, instead of one, and could face up to 56 years in jail if convicted. Arraignment is set for March 4.

LeBron hails on dunk contest

DENVER — LeBron James is taking a pass on the NBA's All-Star dunk contest.

James ended days of speculation Friday by deciding to sit out the competition because of a sore left ankle and lingering flu symptoms.

"I'm still a little sick and my ankle's still a little tender," James said. "I'm not getting as much lift as I know I can get off this ankle. I'll be there in attendance but I won't be participating in it."

James still plans to play on the sophomore team in the Rookie Challenge and as a starter for the East in the All-Star Game.

Competing in the dunk competition will be rookie Josh Smith of Atlanta, J.R. Smith and Chris Andersen of New Orleans and Amare Stoudemire of Phoenix.



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Perfection still in reach for a few basketball teams

BY JIM O'CONNELL

The Associated Press

While Illinois is the only team left with a chance at a perfect season, four others have a chance to go unbeaten in their conferences.

In addition to the top-ranked Illinois, who are 26-0 overall and 12-0 in the Big Ten, Davidson, Pacific, Penn and Utah had yet to lose a league game.



College notes

Through Thursday night, Davidson was 14-0 in the Southern Conference, No. 19 Pacific was 15-0 in the Big West, Penn 7-0 in the Ivy League and No. 14 Utah 10-0 in the Mountain West.

Three teams went unbeaten in conference play last season — Austin Peay in the Ohio Valley,

Gonzaga in the West Coast and Saint Joseph's in the Atlantic 10.

Only one team has yet to win a league game. Campbell dropped to 0-17 in the Atlantic Sun following an overtime loss to Lipscomb on Thursday.

Last season Cleveland State in the Horizon League and Texas A&M in the Big 12 went winless in conference play.

Learning to love the zone

The zone defense has always

been legal in college basketball. It has just been shunned by most coaches.

For every Jud Heathcote, John Chaney and Jim Boeheim who advocated different zones, there's been a tenfold of fellow coaches who swear by man-to-man.

Things are changing. "I am actually shocked. It seems like everybody is playing a 2-3 zone," Iowa State coach Wayne Morgan said. "Guys are playing a 2-3 zone who before never played anything but man."

A big reason for some coaches turning to a zone is a lack of depth. There are others.

"People are going to the zone to try to keep people from getting into the bonus situation early in the game," Oklahoma State coach Eddie Sutton said. "We committed 20 fouls the other day and that's one thing we always try to impress upon our club — don't put the other team in the bonus situation early. And sometimes people just feel more comfortable playing zone than man defense."

Bill Self's assistants had to talk the Kansas coach into giving the zone a try for a few possessions here and there.

Last month, Kansas was down eight at halftime to Missouri. Self switched the Jayhawks to a zone defense in the second half and Kansas cruised to a 73-61 victory.

"One reason people do it is because of health," Self said.

"And some teams, including us, just don't attack the zone very well. We have a tendency to stand around. And sometimes when zones go up as a change of rhythm in a game, teams don't attack it as well for two or three possessions, and then teams think, 'This is a great zone,' and it gets mental. It's happened to us this year."

A win or tough loss?

Mid-February brings about talk of "good losses" as those around college basketball try to argue a team's case for at-large status to the NCAA tournament or seeding in the field of 65.

Indiana coach Mike Davis can hit the committee with "unfair loss," a rarely seen category for arguing.

After Tuesday night's 57-44 loss at Ohio State, the Hoosiers were 11-11 even though Davis believes they are really 12-10.

The discrepancy stems from a Dec. 22 game when Charlotte's Brendan Pivlich hit a halfcourt shot at the buzzer that officials counted after reviewing the replay. Charlotte won 74-73.

Two weeks later, the NCAA issued a rules interpretation explaining how officials should properly review replay calls to avoid any future errors.

Ed Bilik, the NCAA's secretary editor for the men's basketball rules committee, acknowledged Monday that a new rules interpretation of how to use replay that was distributed in early January was at least partially done because of the Indiana-Charlotte game.

The only question that really matters now is how the NCAA selection committee views it next month.

"We certainly take every bit into account, so we'd probably look at it the same way you would a player, who was at less than full strength, may or may not influence the outcome of a game," committee chairman Bob Bowlsby said without speaking directly to Indiana's situation. "But we're sure not going to count a loss as a win. That can't happen."

According to Davis, there's no doubt it should.

"That was a win," Davis said. "I look at that game as a win, I'm not even counting that game as a loss."



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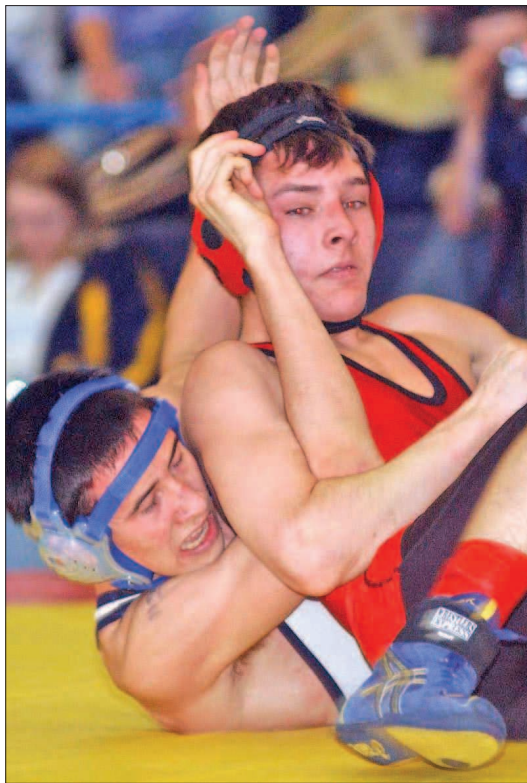
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SPORTS

Getting a hold on title



MICHAEL ABRAMS/Stars and Stripes

Bitburg's Daniel Brunal, left, beat Menwith Hill's Seth Romero 9-6 to win the 112-pound DODDS-Europe wrestling title at Wiesbaden, Germany, on Saturday. Brunal finished second last season at 103 pounds. For complete results from the tournament, see Page 39.

Big Unit gives Boss good impression; Red Sox keep up verbal attacks on archrival

Page 37



Naples girls win American Schools in Italy title

Page 38



Bruschi's future in NFL uncertain after having mild stroke, Page 34

All-Star Game lacking drama

NBA showcase features little luster to lure in fans this year

By CHRIS SHERIDAN
The Associated Press

DENVER — A mile above sea level, just a little to the left of America's midsection, the NBA All-Star Game has arrived lacking a clear-cut theme.

It will be LeBron James' first appearance and Shaquille O'Neal's 12th in the league's showcase event, and in between those two on the frequency meter are 22 other well-deserving players of various shapes and sizes — though there's nary a Nugget to represent the host team, and no compelling story line to reel in the casual fan.

"Whoa, I have no idea. Better ask someone else," Ben Wallace of the Detroit Pistons said when asked to come up with a motif for this year's game.

"I can't come up with something. I don't know," offered Tracy McGrady of the Rockets.

"Kobe against Shaq," opined Yao Ming, who might have forgotten that the feuding superstars already had their first official on-court clash back on Christmas Day.

"How about Yao vs. Shaq?" Yao was asked in return. After all, those two were teamed on the Western Conference squad the past two years before O'Neal was traded last summer to Miami. This time, O'Neal will be starting for the East and jumping center against Yao when the opening tip goes up.

"I won't be using all six of my fouls against him," Yao predicted.

This will be the league's 54th All-Star Game and the first time in 21 years it's being held in Denver. It comes during a somewhat troubled year, the defining moment of the current season coming on the third Friday of November when Ron Artest and Stephen

Jackson of the Pacers charged into the stands and pummeled Pistons fans as a wild brawl broke out in the final minute of an Indiana-Detroit game.

Two of the principal figures from that troubling night, Indiana's Jermaine O'Neal and Detroit's Wallace, will be teammates on an East squad that will try to break the conference's three-game All-Star losing streak.

Both Jermaine O'Neal and Wallace already have served suspensions stemming from the melee, but both can certainly count on the topic being brought up ad nauseam over the course of the three-day All-Star weekend.

"There are a lot of positive things going on in this league."

People want to take the negative things to write about," Jermaine O'Neal said last week. "We have good players in this league. We have players that take care of kids who need things in the community, that take care of families that need things, but you don't see that written."

The NBA is doing what it can to try to steer the focus away from the negative, and there's no shortage of feel-good events — including the Read-to-Achieve Caravan, a Jr.NBA/WNBA Basketball and Books clinic, several hospital visits and the hugely popular Jam Session — taking place throughout the week.

The city will be overrun with fans, sponsors, media, players and hangers-on, and the All-Star party scene typically goes strong into the wee hours. With the rookie game held on Friday night for the second straight year, and the three-point shootout and dunk contest taking place Saturday night, the event has morphed into a 72-hour conglomeration of activity.

SEE GAME ON PAGE 36

NHL, players resume negotiations three days after calling off season

Page 35

